

JANUARY 2000

COMMUNIQUE'

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Weary firefighters and backfires were a common site as crews battled flames statewide.



Fires raged through 1,385 structures.



CDF is #1!!!!



CDF Leadership

Director

Andrea E. Tuttle



What has surprised Andrea Tuttle the most after her first 10 months as CDF's new director? "The complexity and richness of the department, the great number of programs, and the tremendous capabilities of the people." Andrea was well aware of the department's mission in California, but the extraordinary diversity of our role has amazed her. "No other state agency has the breadth of mission as CDF — from its world-class fire and emergency capability, to its responsibility for enforcing the Forest Practice Act and Rules, sustainably managing 71,000 acres of state forests, promoting urban forestry, working with dozens of local interest groups to implement the Fire Plan, managing a sophisticated GIS system for policy analysis, maintaining the largest agency-managed aviation fleet for firefighting in the world, protecting archaeological resources, running a training academy for firefighters and peace officers, developing award-winning environmental education programs, assisting forest landowners with technical advice and grants — CDF's range of talents come together to create one of the most extraordinary resource management and protection departments in the country."

Even with a daily calendar that is full to the brim, constant phone messages, and a desk covered with different colored folders, each a separate topic requiring the attention of the director, Andrea gets a huge smile on her face when asked if she's enjoying her new role. "I love it! I couldn't ask for a department with a better mission or better people to work with." And she is quick to point out that one of those people is her chief deputy director, Woody Allshouse. "We work terrifically well together. Our backgrounds complement each other and I don't think we could have asked

for a better cooperative team."

Andrea also expressed gratitude to former Director Richard Wilson for the time he spent ensuring a smooth transition to the new administration. "The insight he provided into how the department operates, the history behind the issues, and the trips to the field units where he introduced me to the people I now work with provided me a strong foundation."

Richard's input, Woody's expertise, and experience with forestry issues in her prior work have all helped Andrea identify some of the main

challenges CDF faces. "Committed individuals are the fundamental element that holds this department together. Our high level of response and the trust we have earned from the citizens of this State are due to our outstanding people," said Andrea. "Our single biggest challenge in the coming years will be recruiting and retaining the same high caliber of people we currently have." She is well aware that the CDF work force is facing a large number of retirements over the next few years and is committed to ensuring that the department continues to have the best personnel to fill those slots.

"The demand for CDF services will only increase as California's population continues to grow and the wildland-urban interface expands. We need to retain our strengths in the fire, forestry and management roles of CDF to meet the rising pressures. To do that we must have a well-trained group of younger CDF staff ready to step in for the experienced folks who will be retiring."

*See **LEADERS**, page 3*

LEADERS: *from page 3*

Andrea came to CDF with more than 25 years experience in environmental planning and forestry policy. Her understanding of the sensitive nature of balancing timber management with protection of public trust resources creates the foundation for one of her main goals as CDF director. "I hope to raise the level of discussion and reduce the strident conflict that has characterized timber issues in the past," said Andrea. "I have found there are many members of both the environmental community and the timber industry who want to move forward in a more productive manner, and I want to collaborate with those individuals who are willing to work cooperatively." She stresses that "a more sophisticated level of discussion between the timber industry, environmental community and state and federal agencies is necessary if we are to provide Californians with a better sense of trust that our forest resources are being well managed."

Appointed to head the department that oversees the California Forest Practice Act, Andrea immediately began fostering improved relationships between these often desperate groups. She has been meeting with industry and environmental leaders, and points out that the timber industry has come a long way from where it used to be. Biologists and watershed specialists who are now common on industry payrolls are bringing more attention to water quality, geology and habitat issues within the companies. Similarly, a growing part of the environmental community recognizes that there is a place in California for active forest management on the "working" part of the landscape. "In my work

overseas, I've seen the impacts of timber harvesting in areas with no management or regulation. California is a net importer of wood, and we have a responsibility for producing at least a portion of the wood we use – otherwise we're just exporting our demand to areas with less or no environmental protection. Our challenge is to produce wood products sustainably and in ways that allow fish and wildlife to thrive as well."

Andrea includes CDF's own foresters as one of the groups often caught in the middle and she has nothing but praise for the role they play. "Our inspectors and Review Team members have one of the toughest jobs in the department. On a daily basis they must meet and mediate with folks who have absolutely opposite ideas on particular harvest plans, and are equally passionate in their positions. The CDF foresters must find the best course of action that meets the law, the needs of the applicant, and the needs of the resources, and do all this under the watchful eye of both the public and the media. It's extremely demanding both professionally and personally."

A longtime resident of Humboldt County, with a Ph.D. in environmental planning, a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, and a masters in zoology, Andrea's awareness of California's ecosystem is extensive. She understands the potential environmental factors that will affect CDF's mission in the new millennium. "For example, modeling shows that global warming may

I have inherited a department that works well, and I will make every effort to maintain its strengths while meeting the challenges of the future."

cause hotter, drier weather over the coming years. Even if the research is only partially correct, this would lead to changes in vegetation composition with wide ranging consequences," said Andrea. "From changes in wildlife habitat to fire behavior, CDF will feel the impact." She also recognizes the need for CDF to increase its use of technology. From watershed assessment to methods of communication, Andrea is interested in using new technology to increase awareness of CDF's important work. For example, Andrea wants to expand the content of the CDF Web page and utilize the Internet to help with the department's requirements for public notice.

Andrea has been visiting the field units every chance she gets and appreciates the hospitality she's received while visiting CDF facilities statewide. "Everyone has done a tremendous job briefing me and bringing me on board. I'm working hard to create time to get out to see all CDF's projects and accomplishments."

Andrea sees her role as director as two-fold. "One responsibility is the internal one, overseeing the administration of the department. The other is championing the needs of the department within the larger state government, and

*See **LEADERS**, page 4*

LEADERS: from page 3

advocating for the budget and policies we need. I'm sincerely honored that Governor Davis chose me to work in his administration and feel fortunate to have such a strong working relationship with Resources Secretary Mary Nichols and the directors of the other departments with which CDF works so closely."

Governor Davis' choice of

Andrea for the CDF Director post leads us to an issue we couldn't possibly leave out -the fact that Andrea is the first woman director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. In that position she is also one of only two women State Foresters in the U.S. (the other is in the District of Columbia). "Certainly women are now found throughout the forestry and fire professions, and the governor recognized that this

directorship was a barrier ready to fall."

"Even with its challenges and stress, and the fact that I may handle 50 different subjects before lunch – every day – I am thrilled to be part of this organization. I have inherited a Department that works well, and I will make every effort to maintain its strengths while meeting the challenges of the future."



On April 1, 1999 newly appointed Resources Agency Secretary Mary Nichols (center) swore in CDF's new Chief Deputy Director, Woody Allshouse and CDF's first woman Director, Andrea Tuttle. Andrea was confirmed by the Senate on August 19 by a vote of 37 to 0.

Chief Deputy Director **Woody Allshouse**

With 30 years of CDF experience, Woody Allshouse has come to the position of chief deputy director with a strong fire and emergency response background, and some well-defined issues that he wants to see dealt with.

Things have changed a lot within CDF since the late 1960s when Woody joined CDF as a

seasonal firefighter. "We are the largest fire and emergency response department in the state, and the challenge is to continue providing that level of response as we begin the new millennium."

"We have to address the changing face of CDF's workforce," said Woody. It is an aging workforce that could see 500 to 600 retire-

ments over the next three to five years, just within fire protection management ranks. During the 1970s the department was growing and pay levels were good. New firefighters saw CDF as a permanent career. "These days we have a retention problem," said Woody.

See ***WOODY***, page 5

WOODY: from page 4

"We train them and then they leave because the pay is better with local government agencies. This leaves the department with a shortage of qualified candidates to fill our chief officer and manager positions. It won't happen over night, but we are going to work on slowing down that loss of employees." Salaries equivalent to those outside state service and additional training and development are Woody's goals. "If we attack these problems, and show our employees that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, they'll stay with the CDF family."

"Additionally, training and development needs to be emphasized for 2000 and beyond," said Woody. "We do a lot, but we need to do more. Between the 1960s and today, CDF has transcended from just a fire department, to the public's expectation of response to almost every type of emergency. We need to train to that level; we are not just firefighters anymore." CDF responds to over 250,000 non-fire emergencies each year in California. That includes medical aids, hazardous material spills, search and rescue and swiftwater rescue. "Being a CDF firefighter means having more than one profession."

Another goal of Woody's is to work toward four firefighters per engine during peak fire season. "The move to 3-0 staffing last year has us heading in the right direction," according to Woody. "But the fact remains that we respond to more fires, and more complicated fires, than ever before." The increase to 4-0 staffing will increase firefighter safety and the ability to fight those fires.



"We are the largest fire and emergency response department in the state, and the challenge is to continue providing that level of response as we begin the new Millennium."

Definite goals come with 30 years experience. Woody became a seasonal firefighter right out of high school in 1967. He spent two months in Riverside before entering the Marine Corps. A year later he returned to Riverside to continue as a seasonal. Woody became permanent as a firefighter II in Orange County in 1969, where he remained until promoting to engineer in San Bernardino in 1978. "They were short on medics at that time, so I took the training and spent my time in San Bernardino as an engineer/medic," said Woody. In 1984, he left the south state and headed north as a fire captain at Antelope Conservation Camp in the Lassen-Modoc Ranger

Unit. "That was quite a change of pace for me in terms of the number of calls, but it was a nice break." Woody promoted to battalion chief of the south battalion in the Butte Ranger Unit in 1990, a change that reminded him of his days in Riverside during the 1970s in terms of the number of calls.

Along the way Woody got involved with the CDF Firefighters union. He says it was never a goal or ambition of his, it just sort of happened. In 1984 he attended a meeting and left it as a union representative. As his CDF career progressed, so did his involvement in the union - from chapter director, to region director, to president in 1994.

Woody says he never saw his role as president of the union as an "us vs them/labor vs management" relationship. "As president of CDF Firefighters the goals were always to better the department," said Woody. "Now that I'm the chief deputy director of CDF, my goals have not changed."

Woody smiles and laughs when the discussion turns to resource management. "I'm glad Andrea's here to handle that," said Woody. "It's a complicated area. It gets a good deal of news coverage because the issues are complex and are always under the microscope. They can't be extinguished like a fire; there are always at least two opposing sides to each issue and resolution can take years." He

See **WOODY**, page 6

WOODY: from page 5

feels that his fire and emergency experience and Director Tuttle's resource background will complement each other.

He emphasized that the name of the department is FORESTRY and Fire Protection. "We protect resources, whether from fire or other environmental impacts. This is a huge department, with a lot of roles. It does not stand on just fire protection and emergency response, or just resource management, or just state fire marshal roles. It is all of these things."

Since his appointment, Woody has made every effort to get out in the field and see first hand what is going on. "I need to know what is important to our folks in the field in order to set goals from Sacramento. And although I'm a firm believer in allowing our managers and chief officers to do what they are paid to do, without a lot of micromanaging, it is important for our folks in turn, to know what the goals, objectives and policies of Sacramento are and that they are followed."

Woody stresses an open-door

policy. He wants to hear from the CDF workforce, whether that be during one of his drop-in visits to a fire station, or via e-mail, telephone or letter. In your communications with him, you will hear a definite pride in being part of the CDF family, and a very definite attitude toward solving problems within the department. Woody summed up his task as CDF Chief Deputy Director this way - "I want to leave this department better off than it was when I came."

The changing face of CDF

I am excited about a major project that is underway. You may have heard it called "The Changing Face of CDF" and wondered what that meant.

In the next 5 years between 50 percent to 95 percent of CDF's leaders, depending on classification, will be eligible to retire. The good news is that means extraordinary opportunities for CDF staff to promote more rapidly than in recent years! The challenge is to ensure that there are positive incentives to promote and that those selected for leadership positions are prepared for the responsibilities so that they and the staff they lead are a proud, successful team.

This is the single most significant issue facing CDF. The effort will be greatly assisted by Chief Deputy Woody Allshouse, who has a lifetime of service in CDF and tremendous commitment to

the well-being of the department and its employees.

Woody and I have established three work teams to develop recommendations for us on how we address these issues. The teams and their leaders are as follows:

Training and Staff Development: Bill Cote

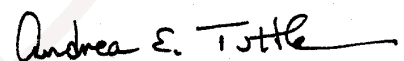
Classification Structure and Compensation: Bill Sager

Recruitment and Retention: Candace Gregory

These acknowledged CDF leaders have taken on a big task on our behalf, and Woody and I appreciate their commitment and willingness to tackle these assignments. They will be identifying team members to join them in the effort.

The team leaders will be reporting their ideas to the Executive Management Council (EMC) on a monthly basis. Final reports from each team are due January 2000.

I want you to know that Woody and I have heard your concerns. We know that we must address these issues, and we have already met with the directors of the Department of Finance and the Department of Personnel Administration to solicit their support. We will provide regular updates on our progress over the next five months. Thank you for your support as we tackle these challenges.



**DIRECTOR
CDF**

Fifth largest

Fire Season 1999

Mother Nature set the stage for the return of a roaring California Fire Season when she blasted Northern California with more than 3,700 lightning strikes on August 22.

The result, 220 lightning-caused vegetation fires on State Responsibility Area(SRA), and a series of fires on federal lands that, in some areas, continued to burn for weeks. The lightning-sparked Big Bar Complex in Trinity County burned for over a month before being contained at 140,948 acres.

On August 28, Southern California got into the act, breaking three large fires and following it with five more over the next few days. Included was the Willow Fire in San Bernardino that burned over 63,000 acres and 60 structures.

At the peak of what turned into a siege, CDF had 75 percent of its resources committed. Up to the challenge as usual, CDF crews, engines, dozers, airtankers and helicopters did battle with the flames side by side with local and federal government firefighters, as well as the military.

Nearly 86,000 acres of SRA were burned in late August, almost as many as were charred during the entire 1998 Fire Season. And, while thousands of homes were threatened at both ends of the state, CDF crews saved all but a small number of them.

The months of September and October brought high temperatures and windy weather, which allowed already-burning fires to grow even larger – and new ones to start.

“Even before we reached the Southern California Santa Ana

“After observing CDF during the numerous northern lightning fire activities of August 22 through August 29, I am more impressed than ever at the professional results of a very successful fire control campaign.

Although wearing down after several days and nights functioning in difficult terrain, CDF continually maintained a high moral and an aggressive attitude to complete the suppression needs it faced.

Visiting with firefighters and staff on the ground and on the fire lines, the tireless efforts were reflected on all those around, in particular the public. I have heard many enthusiastic comments of praise from landowners, homeowners, and government officials on CDF’s Herculean efforts.

Needless to say, I am so proud of the department all the way from top management to firefighters. Its reputation is nationwide —CDF maintains the lead.

Thanks for a job well done. You are the best!”

***Bob Kerstiens,
chairman,
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection***

“I am a native-born Californian stuck in Illinois. As a child, I stood outside our home at 1829 So. 8th Avenue, Arcadia, and watched in horror as the whole of Mt. Wilson, and everything as far as I could see in both directions, burned. I cried then, and I cry now. For the wildlife, livestock, and most of all, for the brave men and women who fight the fires. My prayers are with you. Veya con Dios and thank you.”

***Leslie Ann (MOORE) Manskey
Bloomington, IL***

“I and many other people are so grateful for all that your men have done. It must be the most miserable, if not the hardest, job to do. I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all for keeping Butte County from worse disasters. If not for all the support, it surely would have been much worse. I just hope all the firefighters know how much they are appreciated.”

***Sincerely,
Cindy L. De Lano
Magalia, Butte County***

“P.S.: You saved the home I am moving into in Cohasset, thanks!”

wind season, the 1999 California wildfire season was already proving to be the worst in almost 40 years,” said Jerry Geissler, Deputy Director of Fire Protection. “Not since 1961 have we seen this kind of acreage burned in State Responsibility Areas—and other factors like cost and emergency flight time for aircraft are at record highs.” (*In 1961, 327,951 acres burned within CDF jurisdiction.*)

The battle turned even uglier in October when the Jones Fire in Shasta County burned through 954 structures and 26,200 acres. Shasta had already been hit by the Canyon Fire in September taking 230 structures and over 2000 acres. By the time CDF ranger units in the north and central state had closed fire season on November 9,

See LARGEST, page 8

LARGEST: from page 7

1,382 structures had been destroyed.

"Many CDF firefighters battled flames continuously for six to eight weeks as the worst of the 1999 Season was condensed almost solely into two months," said Woody Allshouse, Chief Deputy Director. "But for all that, we maintained an exemplary safety record."

"While there were several tragic injuries to CDF firefighters, the overall safety record was remarkably good," said Jerry; and both he and Woody stressed "the care, dedication and superb training of CDF's firefighters as the reason for the low accident and injury rate."

Through January 18, 2000, when San Bernardino, San Diego and Riverside ranger units closed their season, wildfires burned 285,146 acres within CDF jurisdiction. Last year the entire season acreage total was only 92,456. The 7,557 fires within CDF jurisdictions surpassed last year's season of 5,227 fires. "We just battled through the 5th largest fire season in CDF history," said Woody, "and our folks did an absolutely outstanding job. We have proven once again that we are the best in the nation, if not the world at what we do."

"I realize that a lot of the work you do goes unnoticed. As a resident of California, I would like to thank each of the CDF men and women who put themselves at risk to save people, animals and property. I have several relatives throughout the state. Thanks for keeping them safe. You're doing an awesome job."

Leslie Heavrin

Dear Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit Chief Bill Hoehman,
"On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I want to thank the California Department of Forestry for their hard work and cooperation regarding the Gun II fire. As you know, the fire was headed directly for TNC's Dye Creek Preserve and fire lines were constructed along the power lines on the Preserve as part of the containment strategy. In the end, because of the effective working relationship that existed between CDF, TNC and the grazing lessee, Denny Land & Cattle, back fires were lit from the rim of Mill Creek Canyon that prevented an additional 8,000 acres from burning.

We are especially grateful for the contributions of Gary Durden and Dan Burns, both of Tehama County, and Russ Fowler of Butte County. We appreciated the ongoing communications that we had with these people during the fire and their willingness to discuss alternative solutions to protecting the Preserve.

In the future, we look forward to continuing our cooperative relationship with CDF through the VMP program. The results of the prescribed burns completed to date have not only improved habitat for native plants and animals and forage for cattle but also have served as effective fuel breaks as evidenced by the fire that occurred recently on our Vina Plains Preserve. Approximately 800 acres burned along-Rowles Road in Vina ending at a prescribed burn from this past summer.

Thanks again for all your efforts fighting the wildfires this summer."

***Peggy McNutt, project director,
The Nature Conservancy***

To Coast-Cascade Region Chief Glenn Newman:

On Friday, October 15, 1999, your crews responded to a fire on our property near Big Lagoon, California. The fire broke out in heavy slash and down timber in an active harvesting site. Given the severe fire weather, these heavy fuels and the surrounding stands of mature timber, this fire could have been a major catastrophe. However, thanks to your crews, the fire was contained to about five acres.

Please accept my thanks for a job well done. The professionalism and dedication of the CDF fire crews is directly evident in their work. Please also extend my thanks to Incident Commander, Allan Gradek, who provided outstanding leadership throughout the course of the fire. In spite of losing resources to higher priority fires across the state, Allan managed to keep the fire perimeter from spreading beyond its initial attack size.

***Sincerely, Neal Ewald, timberlands manager,
Simpson Timber Company***

See ***LARGEST***, page 8

LARGEST: from page 8

Five Largest CDF Fires of 1999 Season (CDF jurisdiction only)

Gunn II	60,390 acres	Tehama-Glenn
Sixteen	40,000 acres	Sonoma-Lake-Napa
Jones	26,202 acres	Shasta-Trinity
DeHaven	17,000 acres	Tehama-Glenn
Willow	21,900 acres	San Bernardino



Structure protection during the Butte Lightning Complex.



"The many homeowners in and around Buck's Lake resort community in Plumas County wish to express their appreciation and thank you for the many "strike teams" providing structure protection during the recent Buck's Fire. There is no way we can thank each individual unit or leader for their participation, but all acted in a very professional manner. Thanks again to all those responding to our assistance."

***Respectfully
Patrick D. Cook, fire chief,
Bucks Lake Volunteer Fire
Department***



The Willow Fire roars over a hill in Lucerne Valley.



Some CDF firefighters on the Big Bar Complex Fire in Trinity County were provided with an alternate form of transportation to get into remote areas. Above, Fire Apparatus Engineer Steve Taylor gets ready to head out.

"Our property on Love Circle in Palo Cedro was part of the 80 acre blaze that occurred on October 15, 1999. All the fire crews responded so quickly and they saved our house and the majority of our eight acres. I wanted them all to know that my family and I think they are wonderful, courageous and definitely one of our heroes. Seeing them in action makes us realize how truly unique and dedicated each and every one of them are. Nothing we do or say will ever truly be able to portray how grateful we are for these men and women, but If you could somehow circulate this letter to all the firefighters that helped us, and also that worked on the Jones Valley fire, we would be in your debt. Once again, thank you, your work is awesome and does not go unappreciated."

***From the bottom of our hearts,
thank you and God Bless You,
Cynthia Carpenter***



See LARGEST, page 10

LARGEST: from page 9

"On behalf of Mayor Morrison, members of the Fremont City Council, and City Manager Perkins, I would like to say thank you for your willingness to come to our assistance on the evening of October 16, 1999. The City of Fremont faced a difficult situation with a fast-moving vegetation fire in a hard-to-reach portion of the city. As is the case all too many times, the fire area threatened grazing lands as well as inhabited areas. The fire quickly eclipsed our resources, and a call for mutual aid was made.

The City of Fremont benefited from the sharing of fire fighting resources from throughout the Bay Area. Without those resources, we would have been hard pressed to confine the fire as quickly and in the manner in which it was controlled. At times, a letter never quite reflects the sincerity of our appreciation at a time like this. I want you to know, the City of Fremont and the surrounding residents of the fire area appreciate and value the assistance you delivered that evening. Please pass on our thank you for a "job well done".

***Sincerely, Daniel T. Lydon, chief,
Fremont Fire Department***

To San Diego Ranger Unit Chief Ken Miller:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank and commend you and your staff for the outstanding work they did on the recent "Proctor Valley Fire". Specifically Incident Commander Russ Crandall, Operation Section Chief Mike Ponsler, and Division Supervisor Pete Scully. As you are aware, this fire was adjacent to the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and of high importance, not only to me and my staff as refuge managers, but to the people of San Diego county for its contribution to threatened and endangered species management. These firefighters showed true skill and concern in their planning of control lines and execution of a plan that saved not only multiple houses in the community of Jamul, but thousands of acres of valuable habitat. They demonstrated that even with limited fire fighting resources, aggressive fire fighting can still be effective. Additionally, their consultation with my staff in the contingency planning and use of heavy equipment was greatly appreciated. While 80 acres of the refuge land were burned, thousands of acres were saved thanks to the skill and knowledge of these individuals. I know your personnel have been greatly tested these last few weeks. I extend my appreciation and thanks for their work in not only protecting life and property but the habitat as well.

***Sincerely, W. Dean Rundle,
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Manager***

The Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty,
God wherever flames may rage,
Give me strength to save some life whatever be its age...
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late,
Or save an older person from the honor of that fate.
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.
And if, according to my fate, I am to lose my life,
Please Lord bless with your protecting hand
My children and my wife.

KAREN JANE SAVAGE
***Karen was a volunteer
firefighter with the Junction
City Fire Department in Trinity
County. She was killed on
October 15, 1999 while
battling the Jones Fire in
Shasta County.***

"Her selfless and heroic response to the call to the fireline is indeed a profile in courage. Without volunteers like Karen, the ravenous appetite of wild-fires in California, like the Jones Fire, would devour many more homes and endanger many more lives."

Governor Gray Davis

A new tool

CDF rolled out the first of its S-2Ts during a news conference in mid-May at the CDF Aviation Unit in Sacramento. Columbia Air Attack Base and Grass Valley Air Attack Base each had the services of the S-2Ts this fire season.



Tanker 83 made a flawless drop with the cameras rolling, and from this picture it is evident how the plane's new even-flow drop capability will help during a real fire. Tanker 83 was able to wet almost the entire length of tarmac in one fly-by.

"The S-2T provides a new dimension to our air program with its enhanced speed, maneuverability, and increased payload capacity," said CDF Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse. "With the S-2T our pilots can now fly outside the cockpit. They no longer have to spend the majority of their time monitoring gauges. They can focus on what is going on outside the plane - fire activity, other aircraft, mountains and trees."



Tanker Pilot Jim Barnes is very familiar with CDF's S-2T having spent the last four years flying and testing the prototype. He flew Tanker 155 this fire season, a loaned S-2T from Marsh Aviation that did not have all of CDF's modifications. "Even 155 outperformed everything out there. The S-2T is so dramatically better, there is no comparison," said Jim.



Tanker Pilot Rich Ruggerio ponders a reporter's question. Rich and Pilot Bill Walker flew the S-2T for the news conference.

S-2T
Payload: 1200 gallons
Speed: 265 knots (305 mph)
In Service 2000: 8

S-2A
Payload: 800 gallons
Speed: 185 knots (213 mph)
In Service 2000: 15



Tanker 83, with Pilot Jim Dunne in the cockpit, waits to load up before heading out of Columbia Air Attack Base to a fire. Jim flew this S-2T on some of the major Southern California fires this season.

"The S-2T served notice to all other tankers," said Jim. "I passed them in the air, even if I took off after them, regardless of the type of tanker they were flying." He added that, he'd make his drop, return to base to reload, and be on his way back out before the other tankers as well.

Aviation Chief Marshall Graves discusses the Air Program's role in fighting fire.



ITS on the Road for InciNet

by Joy Duncan, staff information systems analyst, Information Technology Services (ITS)

The InciNet program is designed around the Incident Command System (ICS). InciNet is a comprehensive program that stores and processes all the data entered, so it is usable by all parts of the command structure. Its greatest strength is its ability to track resources by who they are, what they are and where they are.

Information Technology Services (ITS) is humming; lightning has sparked a number of fires up north. Will they need our help with InciNet? Just before I leave work on Tuesday, I'm informed I'm up next. All evening I wait for the call, my bag is packed.

Wednesday morning I'm at my desk when I'm told, "You're going – they are sending you to Anderson."

I head home to pick up my gear. I grab my tool bag and laptop, and software CDs - the tools of my trade. I meet with my InciNet partner, Carol Hollahan, and head up I-5 to the Anderson staging area.

This is my first InciNet and I'm excited and nervous. Do I remember everything from InciNet training or is it just a blur? When we arrive, there is no time to be nervous - there is too much to do.

The highlight of the first few days is running flat ribbon cable over 1,000 feet. We have cable running over rooftops, along a fence, and even have holes dug to bury the cable because we must not create a hazard.

After the initial rush of setting up terminals and printers (and sometimes taking them down the



On the Sixteen Fire Judie McCray (L) and Joy Duncan (R) make sure all InciNet systems are up and running.



On the Gun II Fire Judie McCray - she sure saw her share of base camps - and Carol Ann Hollahan keep the maze of computer wires in order.



On the Kirk Fire in Monterey County, InciNet Team Members Rick Bierman, Dan Lim, and Richard Klugkist were three of seven ITS members that spent time at this base camp.

next day), things slow down a little. We are now spending our time keying information, reconciling the database running reports and helping anywhere we're needed. However, when word spreads that ITS is here, we start getting requests to help with other computer-related problems.

We set up and configured Remote Access Server (RAS) so the staff can use their PCs to read e-mail. We answer questions on everything from how to hide this column in Excel, to I can't print, to my modem doesn't work, etc.

ITS has 19 InciNet-trained staff members. This summer those folks worked at eight of the major fires. After the summer was over, the ITS InciNet team took Kelly Lynch (our Guru) to lunch to compare experiences and see who ran the most cable this season. The record this year for most ITS staff assigned to a fire was on the Kirk Complex Fire. We had a total of seven staff, with two people going twice.

It's amazing to watch the base camps grow like little cities, and how quickly they disappear when it's all over. ITS has staff that never travels to the field so this summer was a real eye-opener. All of us found that each incident was distinct based on the different field personnel and how they managed the incident. The experience was wonderful and we are all now InciNet System Administrators. We're ready and waiting for that next big fire - or will it be mud?

Tehama-Glenn's 1999 Fire Season

by Herb Love, battalion chief, Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit

In the springtime there are indicators of what fire season will be like in Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit (TGU), and 1999 was no different. There are always the 1000-hour fuel moistures at the higher elevations, the studied drop of live fuel moistures from the stations that weigh brush cooked in their microwaves, and the turning of the valley grasses. All these values combine to set mental preparation and readiness for fire season.

On May 6, a spark from a horse-shoe rock-strike ran off 30 acres of grass in southern Tehama County. This type of start is remarkable in July or August in most years, so it put TGU on notice that this would be an extraordinary fire season. The Emergency Command Center's (ECC) staff of four fire captains anticipated frequently activating "ECC Expanded" this summer and did so, to the point of becoming business as usual. Notable fires included 1,375 acres on the west-side in late June (from an equipment rock-strike) and 1,050 acres on Pellows Road near Paskenta in early July. These punctuated the flow of two and three-digit acre fires requiring overnight and second-day staffing.

Out-of-unit engine numbers arrived into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and stayed, the strange numbers became more familiar and began to roll easily off the lips of the ECC officers. Engine operator names and faces were recognized as they came back for a second, third or fourth time.

Summer continued, and routine business bumped up to another level. During the late night of August 22-23, a thunderstorm

stalled over the north state. TGU lookouts watched as the first lightning cell approached. If the lookouts felt confident on their glass-footed stools, they stayed up in their towers taking readings on the fire glows, monitoring fire size and helping direct equipment to them in the darkness. If lightning safety became a factor, they would abandon the tower until a cell passed over, then go back to work. They tracked the passage of the cells noting where and when rain followed. Logging individual strikes became impossible as the parade of active lightning cells walked south from Shasta, through the valley and eastern foothills of Tehama and on to Butte and Plumas counties. Incident Commanders (ICS) requested additional resources, fires were prioritized, and resource limits were set on individual fires. Aircraft was unavailable. One 6,000-acre fire was contained that afternoon with seven engines, three crews, and two hired dozers. By the time night fell again, TGU's year-to-date totals had risen by 17 fires and 35,000 acres.

September 11 found fire in the high-value Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) tract of timber on the eastside. The "Gun Fire", named after nearby Gun Barrel Creek, was corralled at 112 acres by aggressive fire fighting tactics and sufficiently available resources. All that good work on the "Gun" was erased 17 days later on September 28 by the fire named "Gun II" that ran through the SPI timber, onto the Lassen National

On May 6, a spark from a horse-shoe rock-strike ran off 30 acres of grass in southern Tehama County. This type of start is remarkable in July or August in most years, so it put TGU on notice that this would be an extraordinary fire season.

Forest, through the Ishi Wilderness Area, and into the front country of canyons, chasms and rocks.

As the fire grew and fire lines were lost, the "ECC Expanded" and gained a new tool in InciNet. This CDF computer program allows continuous incident base-to-expanded dispatch communications of requests being placed and filled. As the Incident Command Team made plans and tactics were set, "Expanded" avoided long conversations with Ordering, going over lists. As firing operations began and lines held, InciNet eliminated faxing and re-faxing entire sets of orders. As ordering waned and the Demobilization Plan was set in place, incident base and "Expanded" were "on the same page". Noise levels in "Expanded" dropped, and the quiet during demobilization was remarkable.

Several weeks and over 60,000 acres later, the "Gun II" was placed in patrol mode, and each day's weather report and satellite map were analyzed with an eye for changes in the jet stream, low pressure areas moving in from Alaska and any hint of precipitation. Fire season 1999 ended in TGU November 9, closing a remarkable year of hard work, long hours and good teamwork for all of TGU, including the Red Bluff ECC and ECC Expanded staff.

Filling key spots

Bill Sager fills Butte spot

Taken from an article by Nick Ellena that appeared in the Chico Enterprise-Record.

Bill Sager, a career firefighter from Oroville, has been tapped to head the Butte Ranger Unit for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).

With the job goes the title of Butte County Fire Chief.

"I'm thrilled. I'm excited. I'm overwhelmed," he said Sunday. "I'm really looking forward to working with the very fine people we have in our department."

Sager succeeds Gary Ross who retired after 37 years of service with the department, which provides fire protection to the county under contract.

Sager was appointed to the CDF as a graduate trainee in 1971, after working one year for PG&E following his discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1969.

He worked in Fresno in various capacities for the CDF until 1976 when he was assigned to Oroville as battalion chief. He was promoted in 1985 to division chief, administrative services, and then in 1990 to division chief in charge of the south half of Butte County.

In 1992, he was a winner of the Outstanding Research Award from the National Fire Academy, for a research paper on fire prevention.

Only 20 of the awards have been bestowed nationwide. "Oddly enough," Sager said, "John Hawkins, a division chief in Oroville, also has won one on the same topic."

In 1994, Sager graduated from the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



Sager said he has four main goals:

- Provide the resources for fire-fighters so they can do their jobs, everything from fire engines and equipment, to human resources and training.
- Continue to give dignity to their jobs.
- Deliver "outrageously good service" to the public.
- Make sure that everyone gets home in one piece.

The Butte Ranger Unit has a staff of about 145 career employees, including firefighters, foresters and support staff. At peak season, there are, in addition, some 90 seasonal firefighters and about 350 citizen volunteers and firefighters from the California Conservation Corps Camp at Magalia.

"We have a cooperative venture with the California Conservation Corps," he said.

In addition to carrying the title of Butte County chief, Sager also technically is the new fire chief of the cities of Gridley and Biggs, which also contracts with the state

for fire services.

Sager graduated from Berkeley High School in 1960 and then the University of California at Berkeley in 1966 with a bachelor of science degree in forestry with a minor in landscape architecture.

He served in the Navy from 1966 to 1969 including active duty in Vietnam where he was a combat information officer.

He is a member of the Oroville Planning Commission, having been appointed to a vacancy last fall.

"In many respects my job is quite easy. I've got such good people who work for us," Sager said of his new command. "The real challenge is going to be meeting all of their expectations."

Tom O'Keefe leads San Bernardino

*by Bill Peters,
fire prevention specialist,
San Bernardino Ranger Unit*

Ranger Unit Chief Tom O'Keefe officially took command of the San Bernardino Unit on July 1, 1999. Five days later on July 6, he was greeted with the Elliot Fire in Summit Valley. The fire burned fast and hot and destroyed some property and small buildings.

But Chief O'Keefe's introduction to the ranger unit wasn't finished. The weekend of July 24, the Scout Fire grew out of a rekindled camp fire to run through the west Cajon Valley over the hill into southern

See O'KEEFE, page 15

O'KEEFE: from page 14

Phelan. Again, some property was destroyed but no major damage to homes.

This was our new chief's first month on the job. As we know, that was followed several weeks later by the Willow fire.

Chief O'Keefe is a 25-year veteran of CDF. He was originally appointed as a firefighter in the Orange Ranger Unit in 1974. Arriving in the Riverside Ranger Unit in April of 1977, he was assigned to Station 15 (El Cerrito) in the Corona Battalion as a fire apparatus engineer. Promotion to captain came in 1981. Chief O'Keefe transferred to the Training Section in 1983. Three years later, he was promoted to battalion chief and remained in command of the Training Section.

Further advancement arrived in 1989 when he was promoted to staff services division chief. In 1993, Chief O'Keefe was appointed



as the emergency services division chief. With that came responsibility for the emergency management of the county. During this time, Riverside County experienced five Presidential Declarations of Disaster. Promotion to deputy chief, administration came in 1997.

Chief O'Keefe's experience includes serving as the planning and intelligence chief for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services during the Northridge earthquake and the Los Angeles fires and civil disturbance. He has also been a member of a CDF

Incident Management Team, incident commander, operations chief and planning section chief on a variety of emergencies throughout California.

Tom O'Keefe has lived in Riverside County since 1955. He lives in Moreno Valley with his wife Nancy and four children, not all of who live at home.

Chief O'Keefe has settled into the position very quickly. He has spent time in most areas of the ranger unit including Owens Valley. As the biggest ranger unit in CDF, there is a great deal of diversity to contend with. Chief O'Keefe's experience in the Riverside Ranger Unit has allowed him to hit the ground running. The fast pace of this year's high fire hazard period hasn't allowed for a honeymoon period. It has been more like a Vegas wedding: single on Friday, married on Saturday, back to work on Monday.

Greg Schuett rejoined CDF in mid-May 1999 as the new chief information officer (CIO) for Information Technology Services (ITS). The role of ITS within the department is to plan, build and manage the information technology that CDF uses in pursuit of its mission.

"My role as CIO is to ensure that CDF has a vision for information technology and that we are constantly evolving and aggressively implementing that vision," Schuett said.

Simply put, Schuett said his responsibilities are to make sure that CDF's automation performs the tasks each program needs, is available when needed, can be recovered when it breaks, is secure

Greg Schuett heads up ITS

by Liz Baidoo, student assistant, Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

from internal or external threat, and is fully supported with competent people, reasonable policy and effective process.

Schuett said that every day brings new challenges and accomplishments.

"I don't think there is a typical day for a CIO," he said. "I spend my days making what I term 'course corrections' as we pursue CDF's technology vision. Those can

be anything from developing policy, to working with customers on specific projects, to dealing with vendors on operations issues."

Schuett, who worked for CDF from 1980 to 1997, said he is happy to be back with the CDF team.

"At CDF it is easier to accomplish your objectives because folks here are about getting things done," he said. "There is not much willingness to mire in bureaucracy here. That's refreshing."

Schuett's CDF career began in August 1980, when at age 18 he became a seasonal firefighter with the Amador-El Dorado Ranger

*See **SCHUETT**, page 16*

SCHUETT: from page 15

Unit. He received his degree in computer science from California State University, Sacramento in 1987. After seven seasons as a firefighter I/LT fire apparatus engineer, Schuett became a student assistant in what was then called the Data Processing Unit. He left CDF as data processing manager II in June 1997 to fill the position of chief of data processing at the Employment Development Department.

CDF's systems were Y2K ready," Schuett said. To make sure absolutely nothing went wrong, Schuett and his staff worked all night on December 31.

Schuett said ITS has numerous

customer projects planned for the next 24 to 36 months, including a strong focus on command and control. "Our goal is to build on what we've already put in place, but greatly simplify things for the folks using technology and improve reliability," he said.

"Internal to ITS, some of the things we will work on include rewriting CDF's Information Technology Policy Handbook (0900), re-designing and re-implementing our wide area network (the wires and computers that connect CDF as a whole), and developing a more effective field support strategy."

An avid fan of British sports cars, Schuett restores them in his spare time, which he admits is



sparse, since he and his wife Debbie are busy raising Zachary, 6, and Riley, 2.

Gerrit Fenenga arrived at CDF September 1 as the newest member of the Archeology Program. During his 25-year career, Fenenga has been no stranger to state and federal employment. He previously worked for the Bureau of Land Management, State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service as well as the private sector. Most recently Fenenga was an instructor at CSU Bakersfield for nine years teaching courses in archeology and cultural resource management.

Preserving cultural resources, rather than environmental resources, is Fenenga's primary focus at CDF. He admits the job is challenging because he is constantly looking for objects buried in the ground. "Sometimes it's difficult because forests grow rapidly and cover things up or a

Gerrit Fenenga joins Archeology Program

*by Liz Baidoo, student assistant,
Public Affairs and Public Education Offices*

wildfire burns through an area and we have to start over again," he said.

It is Fenenga's job to figure out, from objects found, what the surrounding area used to be. On the first project he surveyed for CDF, he discovered a small stone artifact with a drawing carved into it. After researching his finding, he realized the area was a Native American campsite, some 4,000 to 5,000 years old. Research often involves the state archives, historical societies, and other resources which house historical records, such as universities and museums.

In a typical week, Fenenga spends two or three days out in the

field and the rest in the office typing reports. "People here speak in acronyms," Fenenga joked. "It took me two weeks just to learn the language."

Fenenga joins CDF chief archeologist Dan Foster, and staff archeologists Rich Jenkins, Mark Gary and Linda Sandelin, who along with trained foresters and other resource professionals, search for archaeological sites and make determinations regarding the best ways to protect them. Unlike trees, archaeological sites are not renewable resources. Once identified, they must be protected or they are likely to be destroyed.

Though small in staff, the program is responsible for large workloads. Yearly, the program

See GERRIT, page 17

GERRIT: from page 16

reviews 3,000 CDF projects, performs 650 field surveys and project inspections and discovers and evaluates approximately 600 archeology sites.

"I'm totally delighted with Gerrit's appointment," said Foster. "He is such an outstanding professional archeologist with experience and a broad background."

Because California's forest lands are massive in size, CDF's Archeol-



ogy Program offers six classes a year for state and private foresters, to aid in the detection of sites. About 2,340 foresters completed courses last year. Foster said Fenenga's extensive professional experience and teaching background is an excellent foundation for the role of lead instructor; a

responsibility he will eventually share with Sandelin.

Fenenga said in his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, which includes his wife Janel, his three-month old son, Jacob, Bear, the family dog, and cat, Barney.

"On my vacations, I sleep and watch TV or something," Fenenga said. "It's funny, people work all year long to take two weeks off to do what I do every day for a living."

Outstanding CDFers recognized

The employees outlined here have all been honored with Director's Annual Recognition Awards for their outstanding achievements:

Daniel J. Lang, staff chief, Operations, Fire Protection, received the **Lewis A. Moran Award**, the highest award bestowed by CDF in recognition of work significantly exceeding job requirements for a sustained

period of time. His name has been engraved on the perpetual plaque displayed in the Director's Office in Sacramento.

The **Leadership Award** was presented to Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit's John Carrier, forestry equipment manager, in recognition of his ability to motivate and inspire others, and for his long-term commitment to the values and mission of the department.

Kimberly Archuletta, associate information systems analyst, of the State Fire Marshal's Office, received the **Innovation Award**, given for unusual creativity, inventiveness and innovation in the resolution of problems, and for the ability to achieve objectives despite constraints.

The **Organizational Enhancement Award** was presented to the CDF Academy's Jay Donnelly, chief, Employee Support Services/

Chaplain, in recognition of his commitment to improving interaction between all department programs and organizational levels to ensure a comprehensive approach to achieving the department's mission.

In addition, the following individuals and teams were honored with **Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards** in recognition of superior job performance. Individual employees who received awards were Mike Durrett (Coast-Cascade Area Office), Marc Romero (Coast-Cascade Area Office), Ruth Norman (Coast-Cascade Region Office), Leslie Markham (Coast-Cascade Region Office), Lee Delap (Sierra-South Region Office), Mike Watkins (Sierra-South Region Office), Gary Shulman (Tulare Ranger Unit), Keith Barton (Information Technology), Gloria Deroo (Business Services), Tin Tran (State Fire Marshal), Dee Tokimitsu (Human



CDF Director Andrea Tuttle presents Dan Lang with the Lewis A. Moran Award.

See **CDFers**, page 18

CDFers: from page 17

Resources), Alta Glass-Schell (Fire Protection), and Marc Jameson (Jackson Demonstration State Forest). Team awards were presented to Larry Brown and Fred Batchelor (Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit), and to members of the Coast-Cascade/Sierra-South personnel team.

Five **Partnership Awards** were also granted as part of the Director's Annual Recognition Program and were presented locally to recipients. Partnership Awards are given to individuals and organizations outside of CDF in recognition of their ability to work in cooperative partnership with CDF in the resolution of issues. Chief Jim Broshears of the Paradise Fire Department; the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District Board and staff; Dusty Gerbing of the Shingletown Community Fire Safe Program; Mike Boyle, Director of the Placer County Office of Emergency Services; and Tom Spittler of the Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, will be recognized for their work with CDF.

For information on nominating CDFers for these awards contact the CDF Human Resources Office at 916-653-8280.

Initiative

***If your ship doesn't
come in, swim out to it.***

Jonathan Winters

Rescues

'Wasn't time to go'

by Neal Ross, staff writer, The Sonoma Index-Tribune

Cuts, bruises and a huge amount of gratitude - that's what former Glen Ellen Fire Capt. Barry Shone is left with, after enduring more than four hours pinned against the side of a construction ditch Monday (June 21, 1999) at the Benziger Family Winery.

"That's about it - I'm real lucky," Shone said Wednesday. "I'm just thankful that everyone came together and helped me when I needed it."

Some 30 to 50 people - including firefighters from Glen Ellen and Valley of the Moon, winery workers, townspeople, and a convict crew from the California Department of Forestry's Delta Camp - slowly labored with handtools and plywood to shore up the trench and dig Shone to safety. He was airlifted via helicopter to Santa Rosa's Memorial Hospital shortly after 3:30 p.m., but released later that night.

Details are still unclear, but Shone was working in the ditch around 11:15 a.m., when one side collapsed - burying him armpit-deep in dirt, and pinning him between the wall and a backhoe bucket.

"We were putting in a French drain, and it was real deep," Shone said. "I went in to connect a piece of pipe, and just as I went in, it caved in on me."

With one arm free, Shone - a trained emergency medical technician (EMT) - tried to dig himself out, but "there wasn't much I could



Delta Conservation Camp crew members and other rescue workers gingerly lift former Glen Ellen Fire Captain Barry Shone from a collapsed ditch. (Photo by Robbi Pengelly, Sonoma Index-Tribune.)

do ... I was wishing I could just wake up and it would all have been a dream, and that didn't happen."

"I started thinking about all the things I have left to do with my wife and children," he said. "I just decided it wasn't time to go, with any luck."

Glen Ellen Fire Chief Bill Murray echoed Shone's sentiment, calling him "a doggone lucky man."

See WASN'T TIME, page 19

WASN'T TIME: from page 18

"I was the first one there," Murray said. "... We put a helmet on (Shone), gave him oxygen, put a rope around him - he did a lot of the digging himself."

Murray added that the CDF's Delta One Crew "were just great ... these guys did a fantastic job" spelling the firefighters worn out from the digging.

Chris Benziger, also an EMT with Glen Ellen, was in the ditch with Shone almost the entire four hours.

"The thing that blew my mind away was the incredible support of the town," Benziger said. "Everybody had their little piece of expertise ... and it all just kind of flowed together - it all just converged and worked, which is often not the case."

But he added that a lot of credit for Shone's rescue is also due to

Shone himself.

"The amazing part was Barry. He was so calm about the whole thing," Benziger said. "He was great - (saying) 'I'm doing all right, you know.' If he'd panicked, it would have been infectious."

Shone, who Benziger described as "an integral part of Glen Ellen" downplayed his own role.

He said the expertise made him "a whole lot smarter."

"I took a chance on doing something I wasn't supposed to do, and got caught doing it," he said. "And put a lot of other people's lives at risk."

Still, Shone said, the outpouring of telephone calls from friends, relatives and other well-wishers has been a little bewildering.

Asked if he had any idea that all these people were concerned about him, Shone laughed and said, "Uh, no."

Benziger said that working to

free Shone - an 18-year veteran of the fire service who was well-known by almost everyone involved - was an "incredible emotional roller coaster."

"It's a terrible feeling in your stomach to look down in there, but you tear yourself away and think, 'Big picture, big picture - we've got to get him out of there,'" he said. "And it's never fast enough - but panic never helps anything out."

"It's a little bit of the uglier side of a volunteer fire department, that a lot of the time the people you're working on are your neighbors," he added. "... And seeing Barry in that hole raised it to epic proportions."

Shone agreed, saying, "Probably the only thing worse than being the guy stuck in the ditch is being the guy on top trying to dig your friend out."

A young woman, Lori Sullivan, is alive today due to the bravery and teamwork of Parlin Fork Conservaton Camp Crew #3. On April 20, 1999, CDF Fire Captain (FC) Pat Henry and his 15-man inmate crew from Parlin Fork were returning from a work assignment, when a passerby flagged the crew down. The man explained that a vehicle had gone over the embankment on the side of Highway 1.

Approximately 15 feet down an embankment, a young woman was trapped beneath a small truck and was barely breathing. FC Henry instructed part of his crew to start emergency care. He then reported the incident to the Mendocino Ranger Unit Headquarters Emer-

gency Command Center (ECC) and requested a medical helicopter and rescue equipment. After FC Henry examined the injured woman, he determined that she could not

instructions and with precision and extreme care, lifted the truck and held it suspended while they removed Lori Sullivan to safety. As the inmates directed and stopped

Crew saves a life

survive much longer under the weight of the vehicle.

Despite a leaking gas tank and potential fire, the inmate crew stayed focused on freeing the injured woman from her vehicle.

Fire Captain Henry made a quick decision to physically lift the truck off the woman to extricate her. The crew calmly followed



Lori Sullivan embraces one of her inmate rescuers during a ceremony honoring the fire captain and crew that saved her.

CREW: from page 19

traffic, FC Henry guided the CALSTAR 4 helicopter down onto the highway.

While being comforted by her rescuers, she asked if the group would pray with her, which they did. The inmates, recognizing signs of shock, covered her with their jackets, reassured her and kept her calm.

Lori was air lifted to Sutter Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa and placed in intensive care. She is alive today. The hospital said that if it were not for Fire Captain Henry and his inmate crew, she would not have survived. FC Henry had nothing but praise for the professionalism and teamwork shown by his crew.

Parlin Fork Crew # 3 is usually supervised by Fire Captain Jeff

Judson. His crew members repeatedly stated that FC Judson stresses emergency medical training during regular training sessions. It paid off for Lori Sullivan.

A little over a month later, Lori Sullivan was able to attend a ceremony at Parlin Fork Conservation Camp honoring Fire Captain Pat Henry and Crew #3.

Boots the Dog

Victims come in all sizes and shapes

by John Spooner, Volunteer in Prevention, San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit

Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE) Robert Sonsteng looked at the dog on the rock surrounded by the river. Its wet matted fur glistened in the early morning light as Rob considered the situation. The river was close to flood stage and still rising from the overnight rain. Although lightly drizzling from time to time, no additional rain was in the immediate forecast, and there was little debris in the water. In addition, there was a large slow-moving eddy behind the rock that would make the approach easy. Given the situation and the capabilities available to him, it appeared to be a mission with a high probability of success with relatively low risk. He turned and told the people around him, "We'll make the rescue."

Several hours earlier, Placer county animal control received a call about a dog stranded on a rock in the Bear River. In the dark hours of the morning, members of the agency responded to find the dog on a rock, beyond their reach, skills, training and capabilities. Near dawn, they went to the Higgins Corner fire station to call

their supervisor for advice. There, they met Captain Jim Sweet, who listened to them as they explained their problem. Jim called FAE Rob Sonsteng, of the CDF Nevada City fire station, a trained swift water rescue specialist, to go have a look. Both Sweet and Sonsteng were aware of the hazards to rescuers that swift water incidents pose, and neither were willing to take unwarranted risks.

After Rob's size-up, he summoned the swift water rescue team members. Located throughout the county, the six members were assembled in about 45 minutes. By that time, the incident had drawn the interest of many morning commuters, and being highly visible from the road, some people had stopped to watch the activity. Even reporters from the local media were showing up. What started as a simple humane act, was beginning to become a highly visible rescue situation.

Rob and animal control officers could only speculate on how long the dog had been in distress. The consensus was the dog had probably fallen in the river during the

night and washed downstream until it could pull itself from the cold winter water. It may have been in and out of the water several times, trying to get back to the river's edge. They could see the animal was battered from its ordeal, and Rob thought hypothermia could also be a factor. It appeared to him that time was of the essence, and the sooner he could get the dog off the rock, the better.

Rob decided to employ the "live bait" rescue technique (so called because the rescuer tethered at the end of the rescue line resembles live fishing bait). He would wear the appropriate safety equipment including a personal flotation device, a padded lightweight vented helmet and a dry suit for thermal protection. The plan was for him to swim to the rock through the eddy, snatch the dog and return. He had trained in water flowing faster than this and recovered larger victims, even though this appeared to be a big dog.

One of the animal control mem-

*See **BOOTS**, page 21*

BOOTS: from page 20

bers had given Rob a couple of dog treats for the victim; and as the rescuer pushed off the shore, considering possible hazards of the rescue, he thought how happy that dog was going to be when it got back to shore. Rob crossed the eddy uneventfully, and as he got closer to the dog, the onlookers peered harder to see the save. Then, as Rob came in contact with the rock and reached for the dog, the unexpected happened. The dog bared its teeth and snarled.

Rob abruptly pulled back. He

had never had a victim refuse rescue before. In fact, this was more than a refusal! This was a big dog, a Rotweiler and German Shepard mix by the looks of him. Of all the hazards involved in this swift water rescue, Rob thought while treading water, he had not anticipated this. The onlookers pressed closer and peered harder as Rob returned to shore without the dog.

Consulting animal control officers, it was decided that Rob would use their snare to collar and control the dog so it could be safely rescued. Rob returned to the

water, passed through the eddy and approached the rock. Extending the snare over the dog's head and around its neck, Rob drew up the slack on the rope. Whether it finally recognized Rob as a rescuer and friend, or submitted to the snare, the dog became submissive and manageable. Rob completed the rescue by removing the dog from the rock and back to shore. Much to the relief of the rescuers, appreciation of the onlookers and comfort of the victim, the rescue was complete.

What's up with the Communique'

There have been daily phone calls, e-mails and letters over the last nine months from CDF employees, retirees and outside agencies who have wondered where their Communique' was.

The reasons for the delay are long - Other priority projects, staff turnover in this office, computer glitches, family illness, a new administration, etc. Your phone calls, letters and e-mails proved that you do look forward to your newsletter.

With the start of 2000 we will be looking at an appropriate schedule for the newsletter - one that fits into the current staffing and workload level in the Public Affairs Office.

In the meantime, this HUGE issue attempts to catch up on the many happenings in CDF over the last nine months. In addition, if you will check the CDF website www.fire.ca.gov you will find this issue of the Communique', complete with color photos.

I truly appreciate all your support of the Communique'. All the materials you submit and your cooperation each time I or my staff call for information or photos has been outstanding. Once a definite publishing schedule is established, you will be the first to know. Until then, please continue to submit your material - there will be another issue soon.



EDITOR

Drop Run 1999

by Janet Marshall, fire prevention specialist II, Butte Ranger Unit

In preparation for what has turned out to be a busy fire season, CDF held its annual aerial fire fighting workshop over several days in April. Located at Mather Field in Sacramento, the workshop was dubbed, "Drop Run 1999," and provided a new format consisting of more diversified training and educational opportunities. Informative sessions for fire fighting pilots included presentations on aerial fire fighting from a wide variety of experts in the industry.

With an emphasis on safety, the keynote speaker was Ron Machado, an aviation safety consultant and humorist. Machado held the attention of the audience by relaying several anecdotal accounts of his experiences as a safety consultant, interlaced with humorous stories.

A demonstration day was another high point of the workshop. The static displays included several pieces of apparatus from the department's force as well as a variety of outside aircraft including an Erickson S-64 Air Crane Helitanker, and Aero Union SP-2H Neptune, an Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook and a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The impressive display drew an estimated 300 onlookers who also received a tour of the Aviation Management Unit's operation. Field presentations culminated in a pair of water drops made by the S-64 Crane and CDF's own T-82, the first of CDF's turbine prop Grumman S-2T airtanker fleet.

"I have been attending this event since the 1970s and this is one of the best workshops I have been to," stated Cotton Mason, chief pilot for San Joaquin Helicopters. "It is well organized and there

is great cooperation between all the participants."

Next year's attendees can look forward to "Drop Run 2000" which is sure to be spectacular!!



The Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and crew were on to discuss their mission.



Battalion Chief Jeff Jones, Fire Captain John Richardson and Battalion Chief Nick Hustedt just had time to pose for a picture with everything going on during Drop Run.



The Erickson S-64 Air Crane helicopter made an impressive water drop.

California Interagency Incident Workshop

IC teams share lessons learned

by Karen Terrill, CDF Information Officer, Public Affairs Office

What happens when 550 Incident Command Team members and supporters come together in one room? Ideas are shared, information is exchanged, and stories are told, that's what. The following story was just one of many that was shared at the conference last March, as team members came together to learn from each other:

On October 19, 1998, pagers began to go off for the members of Incident Command Team 9. (One of 12 CDF teams). The Piru fire had started in Ventura County, and Team 9 responded with Steve Sunderland as Incident Commander. When they arrived, they discovered that the Piru had several noteworthy characteristics. It was a rapidly spreading fire which would eventually increase to more than 12,000 acres. It threatened the habitat of the California Condor. It also threatened some prime agricultural land. In fact, the message from the property owners was "Don't focus on saving our houses, save our crops!" Team 9 went to work.

First, important local contacts

See IC, page 23

IC: from page 22

were brought into the team process. The incident commander became Ventura County's Mark Sanchez, with Sunderland acting as his deputy IC. This illustrated one reason why Team 9 was so successful. They worked with the locals to address a local problem.

The Piru Incident was one of several that were examined as part of a panel discussion. It gave team members an opportunity to say "this is what we did, and this is what we learned." Those who attended last year's conference requested this kind of "lessons learned" presentation.

The conference was run by a cadre which included two teams, CDF Team 2 and the federal Team 5. The cadre worked for months behind the scenes to create one of the best-received conferences ever. Division Chief Rich Just was the chair of this year's event. He was very pleased with the outcome.

"We created this workshop based on what the participants told us they wanted," said Just. "I think we delivered. It went very well".

It was an opportunity to listen to some interesting speakers on topics such as Terrorism, Safety, Delivering Excellence, and Making Decisions Under Stress. There was a chance to participate in "hands on" exercises, and maybe most importantly, a chance to get to know other team members and renew old acquaintances.

When a major emergency strikes, whether it's fire, flood, earthquake, civil disturbance, hazardous material spill, or any other disaster, the chances are good that the responders to that incident will be members of a Critical Incident Interagency Management Team. The team arrives in the troubled community and immediately starts to assist the locals with whatever it takes to get through the incident and get on with their lives. CDF has 12 such teams, the

U.S. Forest Service has 5 in California, and there are several local teams as well.

Each team consists of an incident commander and the usual staff that we have come to expect within the Incident Command System. The teams may also include specialists, such as HAZMAT experts. They can expand and contract depending on the particular incident by adding local responders.

The team concept has proven to be very successful in California, primarily because the members make it work. They are some of the best at what they do. They are always ready to respond to the pager. They show up prepared and ready to go to work. They cooperate fully with other team members. They include local experts within their team as soon as possible to ensure local support. And, they keep their skills and their knowledge up-to-date with training and workshops.

About 1000 hazardous material personnel—including dozens of CDFers — participated in the 10th annual HazMat workshop in Sacramento September 7 through 10. Attendees came from the western U.S. and as far away as Guam and Germany to be present at the workshop, entitled "The Continuing Challenge — Hazardous Materials Emergency Response."

Held at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, 90 workshops were offered during the four-day conference, which included 15 free eight-hour classes provided as a service for over-budgeted units. Hands on

training exercises in terrorism and hazardous materials response, including live fire exercises were featured.

Hazardous materials take center stage

*by Liz Baidoo, student assistant,
Public Education and Public Affairs Offices*

In addition to workshops, which were held each day after the keynote address, a variety of activities were held — including a barbecue mixer, the 7th annual *Name That Unknown Tournament*, and the *HazMat Olympics*. *Name*

That Unknown is a contest in which teams compete to identify two unknown hazardous materials in just five minutes. The *HazMat*

Olympics consists of four-person teams who compete in events including pipe repairs, drum recovery from a lake, and tool recovery from a fountain.

"Each full day of the conference contained a particular theme,

relating to the past, present and future of HazMat response," said Mike Richwine, programs director for Office of the State Fire Marshall, HazMat Division. "The

See HAZARDOUS, page 24

HAZARDOUS: from page 23

following workshops followed the theme discussed in each morning session."

Michael Callan, co-author of "Hazardous Materials Exposures – Emergency Response and Patient Care" and director of Callan & Company (a chemical response training company) gave the opening keynote address.

"Callan's speech examined past experiences with hazardous materials and how that experience can assist in the future," Richwine said. Workshops following Callan's address included History of the Environmental Movement in the USA; Mad Chemists, Collectors and other Eccentrics; and Radioactive Easter Egg Hunt.

Grady Bray, Ph.D., president of Bray Associates, and a disaster psychologist, discussed the tremendous toll crisis and prolonged operations can extract physically, mentally and emotionally from responders and command personnel. In his address, Bray also detailed the normal responses to extraordinary situations and present suggestions for the safety of all involved in such incidents. Workshops held later included Chemical Protective Clothing Advancements; Multimedia Presentations; Introduction to Terror-



Participants in the "radioactive Easter egg hunt" workshop practiced the correct way to scan for radioactivity on investigators wearing protective suits.

ism; and Everything You Wanted to Know About Radiation, But Were Afraid To Glow.

During the last full day of the workshop, Mike Moore, a senior safety engineer in the Office of Fire Protection Engineering in the U.S. Department of Transportation, discussed the future changes of emergency response.

"Moore covered topics from industrial/transportation type accident response to the new threats of domestic terrorism and

the associated Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) threats to emergency responders," Richwine said.

Moore also included a brief history of government involvement in Hazardous Material Emergency Response. The discussion included Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) involvement, how the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HazWoper) was developed, how it affected the emergency response community, and how it affects the workforce today.

During the final evening of the workshop, four individuals were recognized at an awards banquet. Jan Dunbar, retired division chief of HazMat from the Sacramento Fire Department, received the Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Sacramento City Fire Department. Dan Keanan and Maria Duazo were honored as Instructor of the Year by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Tim Capehart, a firefighter from the Bakersfield Fire Department, received the Innovation & Technology Award from Bauer & Associates.

The 2000 HazMat Workshop will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento, September 5 through 8.

Drain and burn

by Timothy Chavez, fire captain, Riverside Ranger Unit

Prescribed fire use is a necessary tool that many fire departments, such as CDF, use to reduce fuel hazards, to regenerate tree stands, and to even prepare seed beds before planting. Safely using fire in a controlled environment has many benefits to ecosystem management, and just recently, CDF came up with a new way to

use a prescribed fire burn to its advantage.

In an effort to reduce the fire hazard that is created from wastewater, the San Jacinto Forest Fire Station in Riverside County teamed up with the Eastern Municipal Water District to conduct two prescribed burns in November of 1997 and September

of 1998. Believe it or not, but when wastewater is pumped into "multi-purpose constructed wastelands," which is what Eastern Municipal uses to treat their water, a very vulnerable wetland complete with vegetation and a myriad of waterfowl is created. As the water sits in

See DRAIN, page 25

DRAIN: from page 24

these ponds, bullrush plants grow, thrive and treat the water, sometimes reaching 10-12 feet in height. But they also create a potential fire hazard, which is where the fire comes in.

With the objective of removing 90 percent of the material from the ponds by draining them and then burning the vegetation to recycle the organic matter to ash, the two departments went ahead with the burns. And, their results were very successful.

Using drip torches and fuses, EMWD employees, CDF firefighters and inmate firefighters from Bautista Conservation Camp all ignited the vegetation area without any problems and kept the fire in the containment area, not allowing any spot fires to ignite. As a result, the 90 percent mark was achieved with ease, and with a minimum amount of smoke prob-

lems. The ponds were then allowed to begin the process of regrowth all over again.

As a bonus of all the work, several agencies and companies around the country have become interested in prescribed burns as a way to treat wasteland growth.



Firefighters and scientists from Eastern Municipal Water District observe the results of temperature measurement pellets, data that will be used to determine the effectiveness of fire to recycle biomass used in water treatment. (Photo by deeAnn Bradley, The Hemet News.)

"The burns were a great success due to the efficiency, dedication and professionalism of your firefighters and inmate firefighters from Bautista Camp," said Christie Moon Crother, the senior resources planning analyst for Eastern Municipal.



With the objective of removing 90 percent of the biomass, firefighters discuss the firing sequence that will best result in complete consumption of the bull rushes, reeds and willows growing in the "constructed wetlands." (Photo by deeAnn Bradley, The Hemet News.)

Teaching CDF methods south of the border

Over the past 14 years Fire Captain James Dellamonica has personally acquired surplus fire apparatus, ambulances and equipment and shipped them to needy countries from Mexico to Argentina. In the fall of 1998, the fire chief of the Silao Fire Department Alvaro Macdonado, accompanied by Juan Pablo Macias, traveled to Santa Cruz, California to pick up a fire engine that was purchased from the University of California. While they were on the central coast they stopped by to visit Captain Dellamonica at the Pebble Beach Fire Department which is a CDF schedule A contract. I was intro-

Michael Marlow, battalion chief, San Benito-Monterey Ranger Unit

duced to them and they were given the grand tour of the facilities and Pebble Beach. This led to an invitation for Dellamonica and I to be the guests of the Silao Fire Department located within the state of Guanajuato (GTO), Mexico.

At 0430 on May 2, 1999 Dellamonica and I arrived via Mexicana Airlines in the City of Leon, GTO. For the next four days; we were booked solid from morning to late at night with training, luncheons, tours, meetings and visits to historical sites. We were

housed at a private hacienda in Marfin, a suburb of the city of Guanajuato, GTO. Our travels also took us

through the states of Jalisco and Michoacan. We visited several fire stations in the cities of Leon, San Francisco del Rincon, Guanajuato and Silao. We would arrive unannounced at fire stations as late as 2300 hours, be welcomed by the crews and given the grand tour. With the exception of one ladder truck in the city of Leon, the apparatus, equipment and safety gear appeared to all be surplus from the United States.

See BORDER, page 26

BORDER: from page 25

Leon also had the only paid staff that we were aware of. Most firefighters are volunteers, but are scheduled with regular shifts so that there is 24-hour coverage. The fire stations are opened bay with generally modest living quarters. Funding for fire departments apparently comes from the local level only and not given a very high priority. I was told that only 4 percent of every tax dollar goes to the city, 16 percent to the state and 80 percent to the federal government. In Silao, the fire department is allocated from the city 2500 pesos (\$250) each month for fuel for two fire engines, two water tenders and a patrol. When this is used up, they park them; needless to say, they never top anything off.

The Cypress Fire Protection District, a CDF schedule A contract, donated a surplus semi-automatic defibrillator to the Silao Fire Department. Dellamonica and I formally presented it to the Silao Fire Chief in the presence of Luis Gerardo Fuentes, the Mayor of Silao.

On May 3 our plans were interrupted after leaving the mayor's office by a vegetation fire that reached about 100 acres and threatened a structure. Firefighters are firefighters, and it was apparent from the smiles on their faces when we turned the corner and first got a glimpse of the header. Dellamonica and I ended up together as field observers at the head of the fire in the patrol vehicle that he used to drive in Santa Cruz. Water sources were virtually nonexistent so the SOP was to stomp and SWAT the fire out with homemade tools. We were curious about the fact that Dellamonica had shipped to them dozens of sets of wildland Nomex,

CDF Fire Captain James Dellamonica provides defibrillator training below, and extracation training on the right, to Silao Fire Department firefighters in Mexico.



but they all suited up in full structure gear. We later learned that because of the swatting technique they used it was necessary for them to stand right in the fire and wildland nomex did not provide enough protection from the radiant heat. We did manage to get in some hands-on training with the defibrillator, the Jaws of Life, and regularly were in discussions with groups of firefighters on everything from wildland tactics and strategies to LPG tank farm fires.

Juan Pablo Macias works for the state of Guanajuato in education and handles the finances for the Silao Fire Department. He was our main guide throughout the trip and drove us most places in his personal vehicle. He has recently affiliated with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in the U.S. and is heading up the pilot program for Fire Prevention Education in the elementary schools. With the aid of two female instructors he is introducing "Sparky the Dog", "Stop, Drop, and Roll", "Don't Play with Matches" and smoke detectors. We observed two such programs in which the instructors did an excellent job. Kids are kids, and they loved every minute of it.



Fire Captain Dellamonica holds a "stomp and SWAT" tool that is used when water sources do not exist.

Our meetings with the industrial leaders and government officials ranged from quick introductions to lengthy conversations and dinners. Copies of most of their business cards are attached. We succeeded in being in CDF dress uniforms for scheduled appointments. The lunch with the Governor of the state of Guanajuato, Vincente Fox, was shortened to a brief meeting at the airport. He has a commanding presence and is rumored to be a prime candidate for the presidency of Mexico next year.

Computer tip

When working in Windows with multiple applications open, a quick way to minimize them all and return to your desktop is by pressing the Windows key (it has a little flying window on it), then the M key. You will get instant access to your desktop.

Operation Santa Ana

by Bill Peters, fire prevention specialist, San Bernardino Ranger Unit

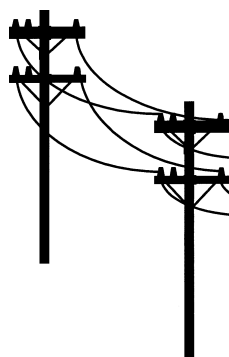
It was dubbed Operation Santa Ana, and like its namesake, it blew across Southern California during the week of October 11. The plan teamed CDF and other fire departments with Edison International for a special fire prevention operation. The idea for this special operation originated at Sierra-South Headquarters in Fresno. Working in teams of two (one fire, one Edison) these teams inspected Edison power lines and poles in areas usually effected by the annual northeast winds, Santa Ana's, Devil Winds, etc...you get the idea. The purpose being...to reduce the potential for fires caused by the strong winds converting electrical power into fire starting energy.

The operation began on Tuesday, October 12. Personnel from Edison, San Bernardino and Riverside CDF, Orange County Fire Authority and Los Angeles County Fire attended a special training session. This training covered the fire prevention regulations regarding power lines and poles, including equipment. It also acquainted everyone with the areas to be inspected and the goals of the operation. A similar training session was held after this one for the inspector teams from Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

The teams were looking for Edison equipment that might need to be repaired, replaced, or cleared of vegetation or have vegetation trimmed to keep the branches from blowing against transmission and distribution lines. Clearance and proper maintenance are necessary to reduce the potential of the wind damaging the transmission lines and then causing a fire by hot-

wires or sparks landing in brush or trees. CDF San Bernardino Ranger Unit Fire Prevention Battalion Chief Doug Lannon, who was the coordinator for the inspections in San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties, said, "Operation Santa Ana is an excellent example of the government and industrial partnership in fire prevention." San Luis Obispo Fire Prevention Battalion Chief Ben Stewart who oversaw the operation in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties added "through efforts like this, we hope to reduce the number of wind-started electrical fires, saving lives and property." Riverside Ranger Unit Fire Prevention Battalion Chief Brad Harris who was in charge of the program in Riverside and Orange counties says "Edison's willingness to get involved shows their concern for public safety and a desire to ensure that their equipment is as safe as possible."

For the entire operational areas, more than 300 violations of Public Resources Code (PRC) 4292 and 4293 were reported, with just over 50 Tree Line Contacts (TLC) reported. Trees and limbs in direct contact with Edison transmission lines must be cleared within 24 hours. Edison was successful in clearing the TLC's within that period. In many instances, Edison crews had the TLC's cleared in a couple of hours of the report being made. The teams also discovered a variety of power pole equipment that needed repair or replacement. The clearance violations and TLC's were recorded on LE-38's with a copy being given to Edison. They were given two weeks to resolve the PRC 4292 and 4293 violations,



in which Edison was better than 99 percent successful. A few violations took a little longer. However, only three violations in

Los Angeles County had to go to a third inspection.

Overall, Chief Ted Mendoza, Sierra South Fire Prevention said the program was a great success. It has resulted in a closer working relationship between the fire service and Edison International. While we are unable to accurately quantify our efforts, we can be sure that several of the problems discovered could have led to a fire if they hadn't been corrected.

Five reasons to study Geography

Mother Teresa, one of the most admired women in history, went to India as a Geography teacher.

You won't embarrass yourself incorrectly pronouncing Phuket, Thailand.

History will finally make sense.

Michael Jordan, a geography major, makes over \$80 million a year.

You'll know the way to San Jose.

No, this article is not about telecommunications, it's about shaded fuelbreaks and how NYP Ranger Unit is implementing the Fire Plan. In a fine example of landowner and interagency cooperation, CDF was able to facilitate construction of a shaded fuelbreak that was the missing link between two USFS fuelbreaks.

First, a little history. The Foresthill Divide is south of, and parallels Interstate 80, east of Auburn. It was a lively locale during the gold rush era. Leland Stanford got his start in the hardware business in Michigan Bluff, on the southeast side of the divide. As the gold dwindled, the area was, and continues to be, an important source for timber, water, recreation and minerals. Like most of the uplands in the western Sierra, there is a patchwork of private and federal real estate. The USFS has a large off-highway vehicle staging area at China Wall for motorcycles, snowmobiles and other adult toys and the 300-acre Foresthill Genetics Center plantation. The Divide is also dotted with Christmas tree farms that have a flourishing business at year's end. Water flows into the American River and pools behind Folsom Dam.

One of the more notorious historical events in the area was the Volcano Fire. In 1960, this fire ravished about 44,000 acres. Like all fires, it paid no regard to property lines or improvements. Much of the area charred by the fire was replanted because it is highly productive timberland. To protect its investment, the Tahoe National Forest's Foresthill Ranger

District has an aggressive fuel management program. It includes shaded fuelbreaks along the Divide's main paved road. Due to the jumbled ownership pattern,

tive Program (SIP). The USFS uses both tree improvement and fire protection funds to accomplish their work.

Part of the work was done by a bulldozer with a brush rake. The piles were burned late this year. The remainder was done with a masticator. The masticator looks like a conventional track-laying excavator

"Making a connection on the Foresthill Divide"

Gary Brittner, division chief, Resource Management, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit



The construction of a shaded fuelbreak east of Auburn provided for improved conifer growth and wildlife habitat, along with fire safety benefits.

there are a few gaps in the fuelbreak. We're glad to report that one gap is closed now.

In cooperation with George and Geri Grant, CDF was able to coordinate construction of a shaded fuelbreak across the Grant property. This keystone fuelbreak, in combination with the USFS improvements, makes a continuous 250-acre fuelbreak that stretches for 8 miles along the Foresthill Divide Road. The Grants joined in two cost-share programs to complete this important work. The Natural Resources Conservation Service helped out by funding a portion of the work through their Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). CDF added funds via the Stewardship Incen-

for the most part. There's no bucket at the end of the boom, however. In its place is a toothed spinning disk that devours brush and small trees like a mega-rotary lawnmower. The masticator shatters the brush and trees and the resultant debris is scattered in a fairly uniform pattern across the area. Some of these areas may be underburned to reduce the fuel load. A follow-up treatment is likely to include herbicide to control sprouting brush.

The Grants are ecstatic with the results. The growth on their residual conifers will accelerate, the viewshed is opened, and wildlife habitat is protected. CDF's prescription retained oak clumps which are critical as an acorn supply for deer and other mammals, and snags for cavity dwelling birds and mammals.

CDF and USFS firefighters are enthusiastic about the results. This project demonstrates interagency cooperation and is a showcase for other landowners who want to see the results of a shaded fuelbreak. NYP staff are sure that other landowners will be inclined to do similar projects when they

*See **DIVIDE**, page 29*

DIVIDE: from page 28

see the results of this work.

With recently awarded Proposition 204 grant funds, NYP Ranger Unit will continue with an aggressive fuel management program

including about 12 miles of shaded fuelbreak construction along the Divide which will connect with an existing fuel break. You'll read more about these Fire Plan projects in future issues. Or, better yet, take a scenic drive up to

Foresthill and see how NYP Unit is implementing the Fire Plan to protect California's cherished resources.

Learning about Soquel

by Colleen Baxter, fire prevention specialist II, San Mateo-Santa Cruz Ranger Unit

Soquel Demonstration State Forest, an experimental forest administered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, hosted a group of 100 forestry students this past March from several western states, including California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Montana and Arizona. Soquel is a mixture of 2,681 acres of second growth redwood, mixed hardwoods and riparian areas, and it supports a variety of ecosystems, making it a perfect setting for students to learn. Guiding the trips were state foresters, Thom Sutfin, Nancy Drinkard, Christy Daugherty and Geoff Holmes. They discussed a variety of topics including watershed protection, California Forest Practice Rules and Regulations, and the monitoring of the endangered coho salmon and steelhead trout populations and habitat.

Soquel State Forest managers study and improve fisheries habitat while monitoring the water temperature in the streams and its effect on the population of the salmon. Another factor that influences the habitat of the salmon is the amount of sediment introduced into the stream. Minimizing soil erosion is critical in reducing the amount of sediment which may pollute the stream bed. One measure utilized to reduce erosion has been to "rock" the surface of the

roads in the state forest, while other practices include the tractor packing of slash on harvest skid trails, installing dips and waterbars on forest roads and hiking trails, and grass seeding and straw mulching of seasonal roads prior to the winter period. The field trips also included a visit to the sites of the 1995 and 1998 timber harvests, where selective cuts, 50 and 150 acres in size respectively, were intended to demonstrate the viability of sustainable harvesting. Foresters conduct the harvests to determine which techniques produce the healthiest forest with the least environmental impact. By providing continuing education field trips



Forester Thom Sutfin discusses Soquel forest management techniques with students from several western states.

for forestry students, state forester managers hope to promote a broader knowledge of best forest management practices.

Getting into Soquel gets easier



A new bridge providing year-round access to the Soquel Demonstration State Forest was dedicated in October with Director Tuttle handling the ribbon cutting honors. At the same time, a field trip highlighted the efforts of CDF, Fish and Game and several volunteers who participated in the annual sampling of fish populations on SDSF. The sampling project is part of an overall effort to restore steelhead trout and, hopefully, coho salmon in the Soquel watershed.

Roadtrip to Headwaters

by Devin Blankenship, student assistant, CDF Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

In May, members of the CDF Public Affairs and Legislation offices climbed into two SUVs and headed north to learn more about the 9,600-acre Headwaters Preserve in Humboldt County. As this Motley Crew of six from Sacramento Headquarters made their way to the Headwaters Forest in Humboldt County, we made a surprise stop at the the Mendocino Ranger Unit. Ranger Unit Chief Dan Matson was more than gracious, providing a brief guided tour of the facility, including the new construction that was going on at the time, and introducing us to a great group in their emergency command center.



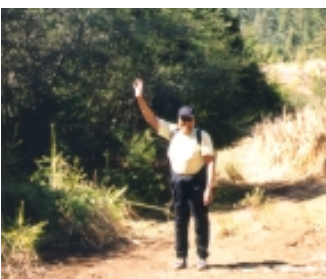
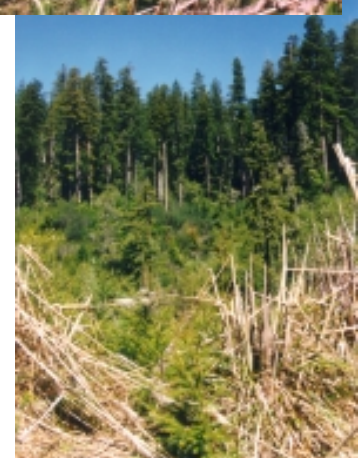
We arrived early the next morning at the Humboldt-Del Norte Ranger Unit to hook up with our guides, and we were lucky enough to get a tour of the facility from Ranger Unit Chief Dave Ebert. Nestled in the sleepy town of Fortuna, you get the feeling that most of its residents are happy to be away from the hustle and bustle of city life, while

living in one of the most beautiful parts of the state. Our thanks to Dave for being a gracious host, we couldn't have been made to feel more welcome.

Just a quick drive from the ranger unit headquarters, we found ourselves on the outskirts of Headwaters. As we started to climb in altitude, we were provided a breathtaking view of Fortuna. There are certain parts of the forest (to the right) where clear-cutting of trees has taken place, a common sight around that area.



After leaving the SUVs behind due to bad road conditions, the group made it's way into Headwaters Forest. This photo to the right shows the easy part of the hike, as the we soon found out when the terrain went from slightly to steeply uphill, with dense brush acting as the occasional road-block.



Chief of Legislation, Carol Williams Bryant waves to the rest of the group hiking ahead of her. A brave soul, Carol offered to walk slowly behind us and protect us from bears and mountain lions should they to attack from behind. At least that's what she told us...

The difference between an old stand of trees (background) and a new stand of trees (foreground) is evident here in this clearing. What is also interesting about Headwaters is the invasion of Spanish grass (the dried out growth). Not a natural indigenous species, the plant was introduced to the landscape and has invaded the forest.

See **HEADWATERS**, page 31

HEADWATERS: from page 30

Although Headwaters is not a pure mix of redwoods (70 percent redwood, 20 percent Douglas Fir and 10 percent other conifers), imposing looking trees like this one reminded us of why Headwaters is such a beautiful place and why it was such a priority to keep protected.



As the group trekked further into the forest, we came across old growth stands of redwoods like these. Stretching far into the blue sky, these giants have probably seen a lot in their days.



Our thanks to the two men who risked it all to take our group into Headwaters, Assistant Chief John Marshall (left) and VMP Battalion Chief Hugh Scanlon (right). They were superb tour guides, and the only real danger came from us trying to drive the "roads" into Headwaters.

On to Ishi

When the Sacramento group left Headwaters and headed for the 14th Annual Fire Crew Preparedness Exercise at Ishi Conservation Camp. Once again this exercise drew inmate fire crews from all over Northern California. The Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit terrain provided the perfect challenge for crews getting ready for fire season. Cutting fire line, deploying fire shelters, hiking in full gear, and knowledge of tools and safety were emphasized over the five-day drill.

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle (center) as well as other staff from Sacramento Headquarters, look on as a fire crew hunkers down inside their shelters as a part the fire shelter drill. The crew is given 30 seconds to get their shelter out and deployed, with two crew members having to share a shelter, due to "wind" blowing one away. The crew cannot leave their safe haven until their fire captain accounts for everybody and gives the all clear sign. As onlookers saw during this exercise, drill leaders tried to trick the crew into coming out of their shelters before their captain's "all clear". This exercise simulates real fire conditions and trains crews to recognize their captain's voice and follow his or her orders - something that could save their lives if they are ever overrun by fire.



Air support plays an important role in fire fighting, and many fire crews are assigned to Helitack Bases. Here Director Tuttle inspects a Bambi Bucket as Helicopter Pilot Jim Costa, Vina Helitack, (right) explains its use. CDF helicopters use Bambi Buckets to carry and drop water on wildfires. The buckets are easy to refill with almost any water source, and require very little maintenance.



Where are the instructions for this thing???

CDF Chief of Legislation Carol Williams Bryant sees if she has what it takes to

keep up with the crews. You probably won't see her out on the fire lines any time soon.



Ishi crews do more than fight fire

We are all aware of the inmate produced products that come from the California Department of Corrections-CDF camp program. But did you know that inmate firefighters from Ishi Conservation Camp are assisting CDF Mobile Equipment in retrofitting our newly acquired dozers?

Recently, Regional Fleet Manager Mike Durrett and CDF Mobile Equipment Staff Chief Gary Selig evaluated the 61 CDF-owned dozers in the state. The purpose of that evaluation was to determine each dozer's age, hours operated and safety features to protect the operator (or lack thereof). That study was then used to establish a replacement schedule for the dozer fleet.

Through the use of normal funding sources, Chief Durrett coordinated the purchase of eight replacement Caterpillars. In addition, Assistant Deputy Director Jerry Geissler obtained additional funding to secure 10 more dozers for a total of 18! To date each of the dozers purchased is only a few years old and some have as low as

600 hours on the Hobs meter. This is significant because, in comparison, many of CDF's front-line dozer units were built in the early 1960s and have seen many years of active service. Furthermore, many do not have environmental cabs and leave the operator exposed to dust, ash and embers.

The new bulldozers are state of the art with pressurized, air - conditioned cabs, finger tip controls and modern electronics. However, when they come from the seller, the dozers are not equipped to CDF policy. This is where the Ishi inmate firefighters come in.

The inmates, under the direction of Heavy Fire Equipment Operators Rich Corning and Dave Hughes, construct brush guards, sweeps, window screens and extend rock guards. Most of this work entails meticulous welding and metal cutting. In addition, exterior lights and air conditioning protection must be mounted. Most of this work takes two to four



This newer, safer dozer unit is ready for service thanks to the work of the Ishi Camp crews.

weeks and costs approximately \$2,500 per unit. Yet, if this same work was done using outside labor, it is estimated that it could cost as much as \$10,000 per unit.

According to Ishi Camp CDC Lieutenant Danny Shaw and CDF Assistant Chief Walt Williams, this project has been a great success. Both agree that the CDF dozer fleet is getting a much needed upgrade which more importantly ensures the health and safety of our HFEOs.

The National Smokey Bear Awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for outstanding service in fire prevention. In 1999, two CDFers were recognized with this national honor.

Bruce Turbeville Silver Smokey Award

The Silver Smokey is only awarded to those whose efforts have had an impact on fire preven-

National Smokey Bear Awards for two CDFers

tion on a national or multi-state level over at least a two-year time period. Bruce has spent 35 years with CDF, the last 20 in an ever growing fire prevention and public education role here in Sacramento.

Bruce has done it all, from coordinating the Volunteers in Prevention Program, to playing the role of Smokey Bear, to organizing CDF's state fair participation, to working on

new and creative fire prevention education programs.

In 1986, Bruce was the driving force behind CDF's mass media

*See **NATIONAL**, page 33*

NATIONAL: from page 32



Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse (right) presents Bruce Turbeville with his Silver Smokey.

contract with the renown public relations firm of Manning, Selvage and Lee. That partnership created the "Fire Safe California!" campaign which has become the umbrella for all of CDF's fire prevention education activities.

As the department's public education officer, he has spearheaded the award-winning and nationally recognized "Fire Safe Inside and Out" campaign. This multi-media campaign of videos, brochures, media kits and public service announcements was not only used by CDF, but also adopted by contract counties, local and federal fire agencies. Building on that program's success, Bruce conceived the concept for private sector support of fire prevention education in California – that concept was the Fire Safe Council. With nearly 100 private and government organizations on its membership list, the California Fire Safe Council has contributed expertise, marketing, publicity and funds that have been instrumental in producing materials covering fire safe landscaping, "The Burning Season" documentary done by the Weather Channel, Fire Safe Inside and Out materials, the Fire Safe California Community Action kits that have been distributed to over 1,500 homeowners associations,

city and county officials and business leaders statewide, and the "Smokey and Me" CD-ROM for children that will be distributed shortly. Community fire safe councils have sprung up in over 60 cities throughout the state, and other state's are taking notice. The fire safe council concept is beginning to be seen in other states and at the national level. The Fire Safe Council was honored with a Bronze Smokey for its efforts.

Bruce continues to look at new ways of spreading the fire prevention and safety message to the residents of California. With the merger of CDF and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, education needs have expanded. Bruce is working with the OSFM to develop new ways of meeting those needs through the Internet and a special education committee under the Fire Safe Council umbrella. He is also working to utilize grant programs for funding of education program materials and future projects.

Bruce's earlier fire prevention education efforts were recognized in 1990 when he was presented with a Bronze Smokey.

Kim Lanier Bronze Smokey Award

The Bronze Smokey is given to organizations or individuals who have provided outstanding regional or statewide service in fire preven-



Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse presents Kim Lanier with her Bronze Smokey.

tion for at least two years.

In that short time, she has gone beyond the call of duty for her work in the National Fire Protection Association's, "Learn Not To Burn" program.

Kim, a fire prevention specialist I, has been with CDF for 11 years working in the fire prevention section in the Riverside Ranger Unit.

In 1996, Kim was instrumental in securing a nationally sponsored "Learn Not To Burn" grant for CDF/Riverside County Fire Department. The San Jacinto Station in her unit received one of only two such grants available.

The station's area of responsibility has a juvenile firesetting problem and the grant has been used to combat this problem by educating children on the dangers of fire, and how to stay safe.

Kim implemented and designed a mock bedroom where children could learn what to do in case a fire started in their home at night, and a stage presentation to reinforce the behaviors learned of Exit Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H.) escape drills in the home. Her creativity and enthusiasm have been a model for other CDF units and fire agencies in California.

**20th Anniversary
Volunteers In Prevention
(VIP)
Workshop/Training/
Commemoration/Banquet**

***March 14 - 17, 2000
Sheraton Hotel
Sacramento
For more
information contact:
Jean LaClair
(916) 653-9952***

Special VIPs

It's tough task each year for CDF's Fire Prevention Coordinators to pick just one of their VIPs as a nominee for VIP of the Year. The Volunteers in Prevention are an integral part of CDF's ability to educate the public about fire safety and prevention. We can never fully thank them for the thousands of hours they volunteer each year with the department. As tough as it was, below are the VIPs of the Year for each CDF Ranger Unit, including, Ryan Bennett of the San Benito-Monterey Ranger Unit, who was chosen from this group as the Statewide VIP of the Year.

Amador-El Dorado **BILL OZMENT**

Bill Ozment has been a Volunteer in Fire Prevention since 1995. He has participated primarily as a HAM radio operator but has also been active in many other programs. "Bill has never turned down a request for assistance," says Teri Mitzuhara, VIP coordinator. He has spent countless hours monitoring CDF frequencies and driving miles upon miles patrolling the unit. His dedication and spirit to the VIP program exemplifies what volunteerism is all about

Humboldt-Del Norte **PAT MORANDA**

Pat Moranda has been a Volunteer in Fire Prevention since before there was a VIP program. She first escorted Smokey to the Humboldt County Fair in 1971. Since that time, she has given numerous hours and a significant amount of effort to Fire Prevention and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Her innovative ideas and dedication to volunteerism in general is an

inspiration. Pat has, and will always be an invaluable asset to CDF and the Humboldt-Del Norte Ranger Unit.

Lassen-Modoc **WENDY MCINTOSH**

Wendy McIntosh has been a VIP since 1982. She participates in at least 90 percent of the fire prevention education programs in the ranger unit. During large fires, she acts as an information officer. Her volunteer efforts extend beyond the VIP program, as she is also a volunteer firefighter and board member for the Lake Forest Volunteer Fire Department.

Sonoma-Lake-Napa **(West Division)** **CHUCK SABIN**

Chuck Sabin has been a VIP since 1984. He joined the VIP program as a HAM radio operator. He later expanded his energy and enthusiasm in many other directions. He is currently in charge of the Com-Van unit 1429, and trains other VIPs to operate and maintain it. He also participates in public education and information programs. Chuck's flexibility and dedication make him an excellent example of a VIP.

Sonoma-Lake-Napa **(East Division)** **WANDA WOLF**

Wanda Wolf began her VIP career in 1980 as a spotter in the Air Program. As volunteers were needed to help in other areas, Wanda became a team teacher, and helped with staffing for educational displays at county fairs throughout the ranger unit. We feel fortunate to have had Wanda as one of our volunteer staff for the past 19 years. Not only is she a tireless volunteer, but just an all around great lady!

Riverside

VICKI AND LENN BREMNER

Vicki and Lenn Bremner have been VIPs since 1995. Lenn builds and implements fire prevention educational displays for local fairs and events while Vicki takes the lead in coordinating the actual activities.

(VIP of The Year) **San Benito-Monterey** **RYAN BENNETT**

Ryan Bennett has been a VIP for five years. During the summer months he works as a seasonal fire fighter / LT engineer, but spends the winter months volunteering his time as a team teacher. Each year in Southern Monterey County, he reaches over 4500 children in grades Kindergarten through third from Salinas to San Lucas.

Mendocino **CAROL KRICK**

Carol Krick has been a VIP for the past eight years. She participates in many facets of the program. Some of those include: HAM radio operator, team teacher and staff for educational displays at fairs and public events. She always has a smile and a can-do attitude. She is creative, enthusiastic and fun to be around.

San Diego **KEN TAGAMI**

Ken Tagami began his VIP career in 1983 as a Red Flag Patroller. He worked his way up through the A.R. E.S. organization and is currently the "CDF Red Flag Coordinator." In 1998, Ken took over the coordination and training for High Fire Hazard, Holiday, Red Flag and Law Enforcement Patrols. One phone call to Ken and we have as many patrol cars as we need.

*See **VIPS**, page 35*

VIPS: from page 34

Tulare

KAREN BENNETT

Karen Bennett has been a VIP since 1995. She is active in all aspects of the VIP program and always goes above and beyond what she's asked to do. Her special talent is her ability to get along with people. Her love for children really shines through during the education programs. Not only is Karen an outstanding volunteer, but a friend.

Shasta-Trinity

KEVIN COLBURN

Kevin Colburn has been an outstanding VIP. He has made himself available throughout the year to help wherever he is needed. During the summer, Kevin coordinated coverage of personnel for the Shasta District Fair, supervised the personnel while at the fair and provided educational programs to youth groups and pre-schools. The children and matches fires, within the ranger unit, dropped 10 percent, which the battalion chief in charge of Fire Prevention feels is a direct result of Kevin's tireless efforts.

Santa Clara

BEN VICKERS

Ben Vickers became a VIP 10 years ago through his involvement with radio communications and emergency services. For the past two years, he has donated more than 700 hours toward the development of the Santa Clara Ranger Unit VIP Communications Center. Ben has been, and continues to be a major player in the VIP Program in the ranger unit.

Tuolumne-Calaveras

PAT BAILEY

Pat Bailey has been a VIP since 1988. During that time, she has

donated literally thousands of hours. She not only coordinates the 4291 Inspection Program in Big Trees Village, a subdivision in Calaveras County, but also does inspections. She assists with citation inspections, helps staff and fairs and events, writes burn permits and is a Team Teacher, sometimes traveling up to 100 miles round trip in ice and snow. Pat is a real "team player" and one of the most organized people I have ever met. Her enthusiasm and love of life is highly contagious to those who are fortunate enough to know her.

Butte

LEROY SMITH

Leroy Smith has been a VIP for the past ten years. During that time he has donated hundreds of hours despite his full time job, involvement in church activities, duties and training as a volunteer firefighter, and family commitments. He has transported the 30' Fire Safe House all over the ranger unit and even into other fire department jurisdictions enhancing interagency relations. Leroy epitomizes the term "reliability".

Nevada-Yuba-Placer

LEE ZAMLICH

Lee Zamlich has been a VIP for the past 19 years. During that time, she has spent countless hours coordinating school programs, parade floats, fire prevention educational displays for fairs and other events, in Yuba County. She is always ready to help with any task she is given. During fire season, she can be found at the fire station cooking meals for the firefighters and crews. During the Williams fire in 1997, she set up a place for those who lost their homes to receive basic supplies and clothing. Lee has left the VIP program this year and moved to Washington State. A large void can

be felt, but the contributions she leaves behind will be her tribute for years to come.

Madera-Mariposa-Merced **JACK AND MARIE NELSON**

Jack and Marie Nelson joined the VIP program two years ago. Since that time, they have spent endless hours working on fair displays, team teaching, building a fire safety house, creating props to be used for fire prevention education programs and helping with fund raising projects for the burn foundation and the Rudolf Wendelin Foundation. They're pleasant demeanor, can do attitude and willingness to help with whatever the task may be makes them the model of true volunteerism.

San Bernardino

LISA SIERRA

Lisa Sierra has been a VIP for two years. One year ago, she took on the task of VIP Coordinator. She established and regularly publishes a VIP newsletter, conducts, Smokey Bear Programs, assists in staffing fair displays and works in the Information Center during Incidents when asked. Along with her duties as a VIP coordinator, Lisa is a single mom and full-time student working on a degree in forensic science. They say, if you want to find someone to get a job done, give it to a busy person!

Fresno-Kings

DIANE RODRIGUES

Diane Rodrigues has been a VIP for a little over two years. She is active in the team-teaching program, fairs, rodeos, parades and many community service events. She is reliable, organized and very professional. Her bilingual talents enable her to translate our fire

See VIPS, page 36

VIPs: from page 35

prevention educational material into Spanish to make it available to a larger part of our community. Her positive attitude is a real benefit to prevention and to everyone she comes into contact with.

Tehama-Glenn ELMER BENSON

Elmer Benson has been a VIP for five years. He is retired from CDF and very knowledgeable about all aspects of the fire prevention program. He is a leader in the LE-38 program and helps with all program activities. He recently

recruited his wife, and both are trained as Public Information Officers. Elmer donated in excess of 700 hours in 1998 and is truly an asset to the VIP program.

Siskiyou MEL CAGEL

Mel Cagel is a two-year veteran of the VIP programs. He is a member of the Siskiyou county Arson Task Force, and a recently appointed public officer. He spent over 300 hours doing powerline inspections, completing more than 300 miles of lines.

Special Fire Prevention Coordinators



Without the Fire Prevention Coordinators there would be no "special VIPs". They are the ones who coordinate the VIP programs in their ranger units, and who make CDF's fire prevention goals happen. The group above attended the VIP Workshop in Palm Springs last April.

From L to R (Back Row): Dianne Sanders, Lake-Napa; Ron Stephens, Lassen-Modoc; Bill Peters, San Bernardino; Steve Foster, Nevada-Yuba-Placer; Chris Morgan, Santa Clara; Jean King, San Benito-Monterey; Tina Rosa, Fresno-Kings; Janet Marshall, Butte; Karen Guilleman, Tulare; Cheryl Goetz, San Benito-Monterey; Tracy Boudreaux, Mendocino; Harry Martin, Lake-Napa; Russ Miles, Shasta-Trinity; Kim Lanier, Riverside.

From L to R (Front Row): Mickey Jakez, Tehama-Glenn; Becky Luther, Riverside; Colleen Baxter, San Mateo-Santa Cruz; Marnie Quigley, Siskiyou; Robin Sykes, Humboldt-Del Norte; Roxanne Provaznik, San Diego; Sharon Torrence, Tuolumne-Calaveras; Es Berliner, San Luis Obispo.

Out with the old, in with the new

***by Chris Morgan,
fire prevention specialist II,
Santa Clara Ranger Unit***

Out with the old and in with the new! The Santa Clara Ranger Unit's Volunteers in Prevention (VIPs), after 24 months of planning and hard work, brought on line the replacement for our old communications bus, which has been in service since 1986.

The new COMVAN 1629 "Mobile Command Center" is a 1986 Chevy 6.2 L Diesel, one ton multi-stop box van. The new Comvan was obtained through the Federal Excess program, from Beale Air Force Base in 1996, and has gone through many changes to what it is today. Considerable credit goes to the Santa Clara Ranger Unit's (SCU) VIPs, our two heavy equipment mechanics Louie Cordich and Steve Birdsall, and Forestry Equipment Manager Mike Ursitti, for their help in the screening and retrofitting of the U.S. Air Force van.

The SCU Comvan, being smaller in size, was designed by the VIPs to be very versatile and more "high-tech", while using less space. The van was designed with all modular cabinets, to make maintenance and future work on the van easier and quicker.

The most noticeable change in how the Comvan will be used, (compared from the old vehicle) is that it can be used for both state

See COMVAN, page 37

COMVAN: from page 36

and HAM radio communications, and as a public/fire information center at the same time. It can be used as a working platform to do educational programs, training, community events and serve as a command post on any kind of incident to support other CDF communication vehicles.

The new vehicle has proven to be easy to drive and can get to



Fire Prevention Specialist II Chris Morgan shows off Santa Clara Ranger Unit's new Comvan.

remote locations with a faster response time. Its first test was a maiden trip to Palm Springs for the annual VIP coordinators meeting. The new Comvan passed with flying colors and made the trip in the same time as a car or pickup would.

The busy 1999 Fire Season had the Comvan out on the road for four different incidents, including the Westley Tire Fire. VIPs come through again!!!

Smokey relays for life in Humboldt

by Robin Sykes, fire prevention specialist II, Humboldt – Del Norte Ranger Unit

In July, Humboldt County hosted the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" at the College of the Redwoods. The CDF family was there as team #46. Leading the Humboldt – Del Norte Unit's family was the unit's unrivaled Smokey Bear.

The Relay for Life is a meaningful event to many of us in CDF, and especially to HUU's Smokey Bear. You see, our longest acting Smokey Bear is James B. Moranda, division chief, Operations, and a cancer survivor. Chief Moranda contracted colon cancer last year. Chief Moranda did portray Smokey

Bear at last year's Relay for Life in the opening lap, following the survivor's lap. But, this year it would be different, he would be invited to walk in the survivor's lap, and as Smokey Bear.

The children cancer survivors were in awe to see Smokey walking with them and wearing his survivor ribbon. Smokey has touched the lives of many and, unfortunately, so has cancer.

Humboldt – Del Norte Ranger Unit's team raised over \$1,800.00 for the cause and had a great deal of fun participating. The Relay for Life is an extraordinary event.

There are many relays throughout the state; however, Humboldt County is the largest event in the state.

If you have a Relay for Life in your area, do yourself a favor and get involved. You will be inspired by the experience and you will have a lot of fun in the process!



Smokey, friends and cancer survivors.

Away from the blue-ribbon animals in the livestock area, and the laughter and screams on the midway, golden tracks of Smokey Bear were painted on the asphalt leading wandering families into a virtual forest, complete with redwood trees reaching toward the sky, at the 1999 California State Fair.

Camp Smokey made its debut in August as a special inter-agency team work exhibit co-sponsored by

Camp Smokey

**by Liz Baidoo, student assistant,
Public Affairs and Public Education Offices**

CDF and 25 other state, federal, and local agencies and businesses.

Upon entering Camp Smokey, the lingering smells of corn dogs and cotton candy vanished as the aroma from thousands of cedar chips scattered on the ground filled the area. Nestled in an 8,000

square-foot space adjacent to the Chinese Rose Garden at CalExpo in Sacramento, the attraction hosted a large fraction of the approximately 45,000 daily visitors to the State Fair.

Camp Smokey featured four miniature buildings – a Fire Safe House, Sparky's Fire Station Smokey's Ranger Station, and a Law Enforcement building – each

See CAMP, page 38

CAMP; from page 37

of them designed to be entertaining and educational for both parents and children. Also several mobile equipment vehicles were centrally located throughout the exhibit including a CDF engine and a 1947 model United States Forest Service engine.

Jean LaClair, CDF Public Education analyst who acted as deputy incident commander, spearheaded the concept, design, development and construction of Camp Smokey along with USFS Public Education Assistant Teresa Wimouitch, who acted as USFS incident commander, over a period of four months. According to Jean, she was pleased by the cooperation of other agencies, and the positive comments made all the hard preparation work worth it.

"Our interagency Camp Smokey exhibit was a huge success," said Jean. "We often heard the comment that 'it is so nice to see our tax dollars being wisely used to teach children and adults about all aspects of fire safety.'"

Retired CDFer Jim Van Meter, who was the CDF incident commander for Camp Smokey, was also impressed with the way so many agencies pulled together for a common goal—to educate the public on prevention, awareness and safety.

"We strived to find a way to show the public that out in the field many of these agencies work together, and are closely inter-related," said Jim. "We hope to all be out here again next year."

"Our target audience is elementary school children," said Forester John Carter of the CDF Forest Practice Program. "We want to stress that it is important for knowledge to start at a young age." Carter, was one of many CDFers who volunteered time to take shifts

and complete other work at the exhibit.

The exhibit provided the various participating agencies a chance to show the general public the gear they use to fight fire and the duties many people don't know about, such as bomb suits for methamphetamine laboratory detection and bullet-proof vests.

"So many people have been surprised that we deal with drugs, but meth labs are often found in forests and are toxic and dangerous," said John.

Because of the equipment, masks and other safety material firefighters must wear, small children caught in fires tend to be frightened and hide from those



The entrance to Camp Smokey included engines and equipment representing the agencies involved in the fair project.

who are trying to save them. At Sparky's Fire Station, a full scale mannequin of a firefighter was displayed complete with all standard equipment worn to fight a blaze.

"We want to show kids that even though firefighters look funny or scary, and talk funny when a mask is worn, they are there to help," said Brenda Briggs, of the Sacramento County Fire District.

Due to the rash of wildfires that broke out in late August, half of the scheduled support staff was unable to complete shifts at the exhibit, but Camp Smokey was able to stay afloat for the entire fair. Jim said



Es Berlinger of CDF and Steve Langhrey from the USFS discuss the Camp Smokey "passport" program.



Brenda Briggs of the Sacramento City Fire District explains each piece of fire fighting equipment in front of Sparky's Fire Station.

the fires fueled questions and curiosity from the public about fire safety.

"Part of our responsibility here is to inform people of day-to-day conditions," Jim said.

Some parents used Camp Smokey to reiterate fire safety procedures taught at home.

"We have practiced escape routes and taught our children how to dial 911," said Patty Jorgenson, of Fresno. "But after being here today, I feel more secure in knowing they are knowledgeable about getting help out of dangerous situations." Jorgenson, a mother of three, said her children enjoyed the exhibit, and will look forward to attending Camp Smokey next year.

The Gunn II Fire in Tehama-Glenn in October inadvertently provided a group of school kids with an up close "fire prevention message."

The scheduled Lassen View Elementary School in Los Molinos fire prevention field trip to the Lassen Fire Station landed mid-way through the incident and naturally had to be cancelled. However, as an alternative, and not wanting to miss an opportunity to talk prevention with the kids, Tehama-Glenn Fire Prevention personnel were able to schedule a trip for the fifth grade students to the Gun II Incident Base.

When they arrived the kids were really interested in the exact location of the fire. Through the use of the maps we had in the Information Center, we were able to explain the progression of the

Gunn II Fire provides an upclose lesson

by Mickie Jabez, fire prevention specialist II, Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit

fire through state lands, privately-owned land, the Ishi Wilderness area and the Lassen National Forest.

From the Information Center, the tour stopped at each incident base function. The fifth graders were able to learn about the duties of each station and were allowed to ask questions of the different individuals in each area of the base.

The students and their teachers were very impressed with our incident base mini-city. They

inspected it all - from the kitchen trailer staffed by the Antelope Conservation Camp to the showers and laundry facilities.

After a two-hour tour, the students were asked to design a poster depicting what they had seen and learned this day. They returned three posters two days later thanking the firefighters and base personnel for the work they do.

It was a very educational day for the students and their teachers. The opportunity to see first hand the behind the scenes support, as well as learn about the fire and how it was being fought, made a definite impression. We were able to get our fire prevention message delivered and maybe encourage some career interest in CDF and fire fighting as well.

Ahren S Fox – fire safety canine

by Devin Blankenship, student assistant, CDF Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

One of CDF's cutest, furriest and most effective four-legged CDF employees visited CDF's Sacramento Headquarters in April to teach fire safety on "Take Your Child to Work Day." No, it wasn't Smokey, but instead Ahren S Fox, Fire Safety Canine.

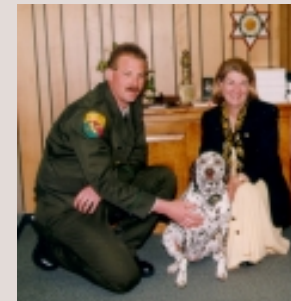
A wonder with children, Ahren travels everywhere with her owner and trainer, Fire Captain Gordon Winningham, successfully teaching youngsters fire safety. Using toy props, Gordon and Ahren remind kids how to stop, drop and roll, when to change smoke detector batteries, how to properly dial 911, and even how to safely deal with strange dogs. Ahren also specializes in the "scotchie" command, in which she crawls along the floor to



After demonstrating how to call 911, Ahren and her owner Fire Captain Gordon Winningham, took time out to meet Director Tuttle.

show children how to stay low and scootch out of a smoky environment (a real crowd favorite!).

It's a job that both Gordon and Ahren seem to truly love. "Ahren is a fun dog who loves to play and be around all kinds of people," said Gordon, who works out of the Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit. "But as



soon as her badge goes on, she knows that it's time to go to work. Her personality is what really takes over in the demonstrations and draws kids to her."

Ahren is named after the Ahrens Fox fire engine, and like Harry S Truman, she has no period after her middle initial.

Kudos

"Dear Ms. Tuttle:

I'm a resident of Lewiston, Ca., who was lucky enough to have her home saved during the July 2nd fire here for which I am so very grateful. I have personally lived in fear of fires during my 30 years here, and now that it has happened, I have the need to give some thanks. During this time of madness here there were many government agency employees who deserve thanks and praise, including all your CDF employees. I'm trusting you to please pass on thanks and compliments for me; criticism comes too easily to most and compliments when due can be scarce.

I feel special thanks in large quantities are due to all levels of your employees who helped to contain and control this tragic fire. I don't pretend to have the vocabulary to express my feelings but the following are a few of the thoughts that are indelibly etched in my mind: diligence, dedication, perseverance, knowledge and skill.

Personally, I wish extra thanks to go to Butte County/CDF employees, especially Units 44, 71 and 2162. Their efforts to fight this fire, and to set my mind at ease, are indescribable.

I have always believed out of everything bad will come something good; your employees definitely provided most of the 'good.'

Please excuse my tardiness in getting out these thanks; my life has not been my own since July 2."

***Most sincerely,
Cathy Cockburn***

From the Redding Record Searchlight - July 24, 1999.

"My wife and I watched in shock July 15 as a wall of fire raced toward our home.

The time between first spotting the smoke and considering abandoning my water hose was less than 15 minutes. At that moment, I heard a diesel engine roaring up my gravel drive. It was CDF engine No. 2487. Its occupants were on a mission and they knew it well. With little talking and no yelling, the personnel executed their task like that of a precision aerobatics team.

I live within the Redding city limits and was not expecting a CDF unit. My understanding, as it was explained to me, is that each firefighting agency has its own jurisdiction and only crosses into another's territory when requested as backup by that agency. I credit the protection of my home to two administrators: the CDF administrator at the Lake Shasta lookout who dispatched two engines immediately after spotting smoke and the Redding Fire Department administrator who is not too proud to request backup from another agency.

It was impressive to watch the agencies work in harmony with one another both in the air and on the ground. It was not uncommon for a firefighter to apologize to me for his or her noisy pump truck or for a hose dragged over a flowerpot. I couldn't believe it - here they are saving my home and apologizing for their intrusion.

Their sensitivity and caring attitude toward our plight did not go unnoticed. To quote my wife, thank God for his angels in orange and yellow suits."

***Phillip Friesen
Redding***

"On behalf of California State Parks, and especially our North Coast Redwoods District staff, I wish to thank you and your department for the outstanding effort that went into suppressing the fire on Monday, May 24 at Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

As you may know, the fire began in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park maintenance area about 1 a.m. It quickly erupted into a major event. Only the rapid response from recently staffed stations near the park averted a disaster. While we lost three buildings and a large quantity of supplies and equipment, the situation could have been much worse. Somehow, through heroic firefighting, crews saved the adjacent and historic recreation hall, as well as the nearby park headquarters, all residences and the visitor center. Chief Dave Ebert, Incident Commander Kevin O'Neil and the CDF crews all gave 100% toward the effort. They were aided by very capable volunteer firefighters from Redway, Myers Flat, Miranda, Weott and Redcrest. Even before the fire was out, professional investigation work by your fire prevention team was underway to determine a cause.

We are proud to be partners in California's Resource Agency with such outstanding people. Each and every member of your staff who provided assistance deserves special commendation for a job well done."

***Rusty Areias
Director, Dept. Parks and Recreation***

See KUDOS, page 41

KUDOS: from page 40

"Dear Director Tuttle:

I recently had the opportunity to be active on the large Gun II fire in the rugged lava terrain of the eastern Tehama County.

I participated with CDF personnel from Aerial Recon to Ground Control Action, primarily with backfire and dozer line construction, for two long days and long nights. I was most impressed with the dedication and professional accomplishments of all CDF personnel.

In particular, Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit's Operations Ranger, Gary Durden, and Fire Team 4 Leader and Incident Command (IC), Loyde Johnson, provided the leadership for a massive fire control effort that is still going on as of this date.

Spending most of my time with Branch 4 Manager Dan Burns, I was most impressed with his cool, tireless ability to make sound decisions under changing fire suppression needs. I am sure that there were other pressures on Dan that I was not even aware of, but nevertheless, he handled all of those easily and in a mature efficient manner.

One particularly long hazardous backfire that Dan assigned to Dye Creek Nature Conservancy, Denny Cattle Company people and myself went off like clockwork. It was very successful.

If the department can continue to field top notch rangers like Gary Durden, Loyde Johnson and Dan Burns, the difficult fire control situations that continue to arise in the state of California are truly in the best of hands.

Please convey my personal appreciation to these dedicated men."

Robert J. Kerstiens

Chairman of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

To the Cascade Area Chief:

"Please extend to your personnel my sincere expression of appreciation for everything they did this weekend during the Jones Fire. I cannot appropriately express how much their help and support meant to me, individually, or to our department, and certainly to the hundreds of citizens whose lives were impacted by their assistance.

This past weekend has been a nightmare for everyone involved. The fire was indiscriminate where it struck; many staff had to forget about their own homes in order to help others evacuate. There were incidents where individuals refused to take the advice of the officers and chose to stay behind to protect their property. Even with all the turmoil and, I'm sure, personalities to deal with, your officers handled themselves in an exemplary manner. I believe we are unique in the very close working relationship the Sheriff's Office has with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

In closing, please let each of your staff know how much I appreciated their help during this incident."

**Sincerely, Jim Pope, sheriff-coroner,
Shasta County**

"I am really impressed with the way CDF handled the small fire we had in the Elsinore area (hills) yesterday (November 23, 1999). CDF responded speedily and prevented a fire from getting out-of-hand and consuming nearby houses. Soon after CDF planes and helicopters began dousing the fire, it was out. This was due to expert assessment and engagement of personnel and equipment, rapidly. I am very proud of California's CDF and grateful that the CDF exists."

Thanks, Charles Decelles

The following letter was signed by many of the residents who were affected by the Willow fire in San Bernardino County.

"Dear Ms. Tuttle:

As you are aware, the largest fire (the "Willow" fire) in San Bernardino Mountain history took place in this region of Southern California recently. Not only was it enormous in size but changed direction several times and occurred in very rugged terrain. At one point, it was out of control and less than five miles from our community.

As typical residents of Fawnskin and big Bear Valley, we wish to let you know how much the professionalism, courage and tremendously hard work of the firefighters and agencies involved in fighting this fire are admired and appreciated. We realize that this terrifying disaster crossed many jurisdictional boundaries, requiring not only a huge amount of physical effort on the part of the firefighters but also a great deal of rapid coordination between agencies and the marshalling of resources from many sources. We want to let you know how much all of the efforts

See KUDOS, page 42

KUDOS: from page 41

are appreciated and hope you will find some way to recognize the outstanding professionals involved in this most challenging effort."

To Santa Clara Ranger Unit Chief Steve Woodill:

"I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation and professionalism displayed by CDF Dozer Operator George Setty during a recent San Jose Fire Department incident.

On July 11, 1999, San Jose Fire units responded to a vegetation fire in the vicinity of Dove Hill Road and Highway 101 (Inc. #01975). The fire threatened structures on Dove Hill Rd. and was upgraded to a Tier III response level. BC John Flatley, incident commander, requested Copter 106 mutual aid from Alma Helitack. Your dispatchers, sensing the area might be a "threat zone," upgraded the response to a full CDF wildland response. Four engines, Copter 106 and Battalion 1613 Rich Reece were utilized. Fixed wing aircraft, dozers and hand crews were not needed and were canceled. We appreciate the response from your department to our request.

As one of our engines was being backed down a narrow driveway, the shoulder of the road gave way causing the engine to slide off the road. It was lodged on the hillside at a very precarious angle. After a couple of attempts to dislodge the engine by a private tow company, the situation became even more precarious. BC Flatley stopped the tow company's efforts and requested that a CDF dozer be dispatched to assist.

CDF dozer 1640, with George Setty at the controls, responded to our request for assistance. After a few hours' work late at night, the engine was pulled back onto the

road with minimal damage done to the engine. Mr. Setty waited for the remainder of our units, including two SJFD engines that had been blocked by the stranded engine, to leave the area before "loading-up" and going home. We estimate that he did not get back to Morgan Hill until sometime after 0200 hours, July 12, 1999.

Once again, I want to commend your organization for assisting us at this incident. In particular, I commend dozer operator George Setty. My personnel relayed to me that the success of this extraction was largely due to the expertise of Mr. Setty. Individuals that worked with him stated that he was highly professional, very personable and cooperative, and his mechanical abilities very much helped to make this operation a success. Please relay to Mr. Setty our sincere appreciation for his assistance. Thank you."

***Sincerely, William Staples,
Acting Fire Chief,
San Jose Fire Department***

"Dear Ms. Tuttle:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to your CDF staff who "came to my rescue" at the Malakoff Diggins State Park on Saturday, October 30th. I was hiking on the Humbug Trail and broke my ankle about 2-1/2 miles down the trail. Since I was unable to walk out on my own, a member of my group went back to the Park Ranger's Office for help.

Within a short period of time, the park ranger was there, quickly followed by the CDF staff. I was ultimately lifted out by helicopter and taken to an awaiting ambulance, which then took me to the Sierra Nevada Hospital in Grass Valley.

In what was obviously a highly stressful situation for me, the park

ranger and CDF staff were extremely patient and sympathetic. Jesse with the CDF was first on the scene and even let me use his jacket until they took me up in the helicopter. The park ranger was kind enough to call me at home the following Monday to see how I was.

Once again, I truly appreciate all that was done for me."

***Mary Maybie
West Sacramento***

To the following CDFers who were recognized as recipients of the Governor's Employee Safety Award for their contributions to a safer working environment:

Fire Apparatus Engineer
Thomas McEwen,
Fresno-King's Ranger Unit

Fire Captain
Mark Theofanides,
Madera-Mariposa-Merced
Ranger Unit

**Group Award
Coast-Cascade HQ
Technical Services staff:**
Deputy Chief Tom Osipowich

Forestry Construction
& Maintenance Supervisor
Michael Vierria

Stationary Engineer Bill Meitz

Carpenter II Anthony Patti

Associate Civil Engineer Albert Lau

Civil Engineering Technician II
Mac McWilliams

Electrician II Dean Sylvester

Civil Engineering Associate
Curtis Dupuis

Civil Engineering Associate
Dave Garcia

Civil Engineering Technician II
Rich Siemer

Carpenter Supervisor Doug Roberts

Forestry Construction
& Maintenance Supervisor
Richard Ellzey

See KUDOS, page 43

KUDOS: from page 42

Stationary Engineer Doug Baker

Carpenter Supervisor Lee Thomas

Group Award

Sierra Office Headquarters

Technical Services staff:

Forestry Construction
& Maintenance Supervisor
Phil Cooksey

Artisan Randy Guthrie

Artisan Eric Ketner

Artisan Mark Pavelich

Artisan Marty Reiter

Artisan Charles Sage

Artisan Jesse Walker

Retired Annuitant Dale Cannon

Artisan Mike Elliot

Artisan Dave Henderson

Artisan Scott Lemon

Artisan Gregory Peck

Artisan Ron Reuer

Artisan Glenn Self

Artisan Gary Winchell

Carpenter II William Poulos

Artisan Geoff Gaston

Artisan John Hudson

Artisan Mike Loya

Artisan Ray Pittman

Artisan Mike Robinson

Artisan Steve Sherce

Artisan Rick Yoakum

Electrician Supervisor
John Schneider

Artisan Ken Gobeli

Artisan William Johnson

Artisan Randy Moore

See KUDOS, page 44

To Bill Hoehman, Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit Chief,

"This past few months have been busy ones for you. I can't imagine the time and effort you must have expended in dealing with the tremendous fires we have had just in your jurisdiction. Thank you and your crews for providing the expertise and effort to deal with fires such as the Gun II fire on Mill Creek. I would like to specifically commend Gary Durdan for keeping those of us in the area apprised of up-to-date information and involving us in the process. He has been a welcome change. I was also impressed with the communications network your staff provided through the fire info phone lines. If nothing else, they provide assurances for those of us on the outside trying to understand daily situations. They are a great asset.

Fortunately, my grazing land south of Mill Creek was spared from the fire this time, but some of my neighbors weren't so fortunate. A few years ago, some of those same ranchers and I met with you and your staff to discuss some prefire planning that I had hoped would not only help you in combating just such an event as Gun II, but would also address some of the concerns we have with the after effects of a fire of this magnitude. Unfortunately, some of the same questions and concerns exist now as they did then. I know any effort to address concerns at this time may be construed as criticism or second guessing. Let me assure you that is not the intent of this letter. I do believe that we need to express subjects of concern while they are fresh on our minds. Not to necessarily answer them now, but at least provide a basis by which we may understand your process in making decisions that you have to make. With that said I will try to express those concerns. First, while some of the areas of the watershed are certainly overgrown with brush that needs to be burned periodically, there is much of the area that is productive livestock grazing, and just as important, wildlife habitat. Is there a way to develop some criteria that would maybe separate areas as far as fire management is concerned, particularly when backfires are used? I know you have several overlays of criteria (such as wilderness areas) that make it very difficult in your effort, but is there a way to set up a GIS that would incorporate other concerns into the mix? As you know, Mill Creek is habitat for both spring-run chinook salmon and steelhead, both listed through the Endangered Species Act. I know you do take into consideration endangered species, but is there any consideration of the after effects of intense burning in certain areas of the watershed during critical spawning times? The ash from previous fires smothered gravels essential to spawning, I hope we don't have a repeat this year.

Can we, as landowners, help establish a series of fuel breaks that could help provide predetermined fire lines? It would seem that a coordinated effort, that was agreed upon ahead of time, would help in your efforts. Bill, I don't envy your position, and I support your effort whole heartedly, but I think we help each other in reducing the impact of these fires that seem to come through this area too often. I hope we can meet soon to discuss these concerns, or any you may have. Thanks again for the job CDF has done this year. The Mill Creek Conservancy welcomes the opportunity to work with you on fire planning issues."

***Burt Bundy, president,
Mill Creek Conservancy***

KUDOS: from page 43

Artisan Vince Reece

Artisan Sergio Romero

Artisan Bobby Thornburg

Retired Annuitant Ken Eller

Electrician II
Lloyd Kellerhals

To the following CDFers
who received Departmental
Safety Recognition Awards for
their contributions to a safer
working environment:

Battalion Chief
Steve Iverson
Butte Ranger Unit

Fire Captain
David Walworth
San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit

"The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) would like to express appreciation to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Tehama County Fire Department for their commitment and outstanding response during the recent fires. The valiant fire fighting efforts and the ongoing communication with us enabled PG&E to keep power to residents allowing for their use of important equipment during this difficult time. Also, company losses to our distribution, transmission and Hydro facilities were kept to a minimum.

PG&E, as a cooperator, and working closely with the Command Staff, was able to communicate vital information regarding the 500 kV transmission lines and the potential impact to the State of California's Power delivery system. Through the communication channels provided by the Command Staff, the Fire Agencies worked closely with us to eliminate potential risk to these transmission lines which, in turn, kept the lights on for millions of Californians.

We are thankful for the fire fighting efforts of these agencies and for the opportunity to work collaboratively during this emergency."

*Sincerely, Pam Johnson, manager, Operations, Maintenance
& Construction*

Tim Bedford, superintendent, Transmission Line Department

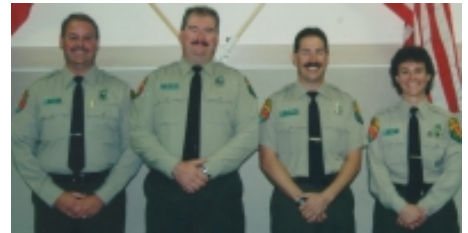
Craig Bolger, superintendent, Northern Area Hydro Department



The top graduates from Firefighter Module #20: #2 Steve Crawford, San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit; #3 Wendy Wickizer, Coast-Cascade HQ; #1 John Schlickeiser, San Benito-Monterey.



The top graduates from Driver Operator Module #20: Mike Webb, Amador-El Dorado Unit; Melissa Pulsipher, Amador-El Dorado Ranger Unit; and Georgena Mattos, San Diego Ranger Unit.



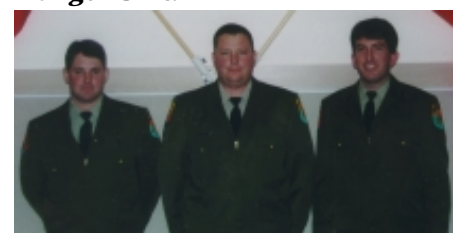
The top graduates from Supplemental Driver-Operator Module: #3 Scott Neal, Amador-El Dorado Ranger Unit; tied for #2 Troy Cheek, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit, and Tom Crespín, Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit; and #1 Lydia Soileau, Butte Ranger Unit.



The top graduates from Firefighter Module #21: Tied for #3 Andre Schmidt and Jackie Williams, Riverside Ranger Unit; and tied for #1 Scott Witt, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit, and Mike Orland, Riverside Ranger Unit.



The top graduates from Driver-Operator Module #21: #3 Mike Maynard, Santa Clara Ranger Unit; #2 Mort Allen, Riverside Ranger Unit; and #1 Mike Smith, San Bernardino Ranger Unit.



The top graduates from Firefighter Module #19: #1 Charlie Blankenheim, Amador-El Dorado Ranger Unit; #2 Craig Waag, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit; and #3 Joe Tapia, Butte Ranger Unit.

Personnel Transactions

SIERRA-SOUTH

APPOINTMENTS: Lisa Nino, Timothy Bryan, Craig Waag, Troy Cheek, Robert Johnson and Clark Daly to Fire Apparatus Engineer; Alicia Moore to Dispatcher Clerk, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit; Christopher Bump, Douglas Johnson and Alfred Munoz to Fire Apparatus Engineer, Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit; Dennis Hanson and Susan Linney to Fire Apparatus Engineer, Lin Powell to Office Assistant (T), Chuck Ouimette to Heavy Equipment Operator, Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit; Clinton Bullard to Fire Prevention Specialist I, Patricia Grisham to Dispatcher Clerk, James Tully, Jeremy Montgomery, Jason Cohn, Jana Campbell and Steve Crawford to Fire Apparatus Engineer, Albert Aguilar to Warehouse Worker, San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit; Mark Perry to Fire Captain, Ventura Youth Conservation Camp; Steve Guarino to Deputy State Fire Marshal, (OSFM) Code Enforcement.

PROMOTIONS: Mike Watkins to Staff Services Manager II, Karen O'Keefe to Accountant I Specialist, Dee Cooksey to Regional Administrative Officer I, Lisa Saunders to Staff Services Analyst, Emma Linda to Personnel Services Specialist I, Sierra-South Region Office; Jerry Morgan and John Krum to Battalion Chief, Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit; Mike Hawkins to Staff Services Manager II, James Reeder to Assistant Chief-Supervisor, Jennifer Lawler to Office Technician, San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit; Tom Wells to Battalion Chief, Tammi Chastain to Personnel Services Specialist I,

Mike Hunziker to Fire Captain, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit; Rich Drozen and Joe Ten Eyck to Fire Captain, David Ortegell to Deputy Chief, Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit; William Andersen Jr., Stephen Spinharney and Mark Sparling to Fire Captain, Cuesta Conservation Camp; Rodney McMorris, Steve Meikle, Dereck Staberg, Ronald Smith and Joe Barraza to Fire Captain, Ventura Youth Conservation Camp.

TRANSFERS: Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Robert O'Keefe to San Benito-Monterey Ranger Unit from Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit; Fire Captain Gary Karle to Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit from Tulare Ranger Unit; Fire Captain Pat Barbelllo to Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit from Mt. Bullion Youth Conservation Camp; Senior Account Clerk Nancie Thomas to San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit from Sierra South Region HQ; Fire Apparatus Engineer Anthony Ramirez to San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit from San Benito-Monterey; Chief Dan Francis to Amador-El Dorado from Training & Education (OSFM), Sacramento HQ.

SEPARATIONS: Fire Prevention Specialist Greg McSwain, Dispatcher/Clerk Matt Callahan, San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit; Fire Captain Patrick Easley, Ventura Youth Conservation Camp; Office Assistant Robin Storey, Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit; Personnel Services Specialist I Carla Brayton, Pine Grove Conservation Camp; Office Technician Joyce Stephanik (OSFM), Hazardous Materials Safety.

RETIREMENTS: Fire Captain Greg Schlitz and Heavy Fire Equipment Operator William Hartman, Cuesta Conservation Camp; Fire Captain Kenneth Martin, Fire Apparatus Engineer David Campbell, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit; Fire Captain Dave Voorhees, Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit.

DEATHS: Retired Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Ernest Venema from San Bernardino Ranger Unit passed away on December 4, 1999; Retired State Forester II Max Meadows from Sierra-South Region HQ passed away on March 4, 1999; Retired Fire Apparatus Engineer Ed Hinds of Tulare Ranger Unit passed away on August 2, 1999; Retired Ranger Butch Skinner from San Bernardino Ranger Unit passed away on July 11, 1999; Retired Fire Captain Dick Dentone from Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit passed away on June 21, 1999; Fire Apparatus Engineer Rick Eddy from Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit passed away on June 14, 1999; Retired Fire Captain Bob Brower from Amador-El Dorado Ranger Unit passed away on April 13, 1999; Firefighter II/ Paramedic John Perrault from Riverside Ranger Unit passed away on December 26, 1999.

COAST-CASCADE

APPOINTMENTS: Kerry Bradford to Account Clerk II, Susan Albrecht to Management

See PERSONNEL, page 46

PERSONNEL: from page 45

Services Technician, Albert Lau to Civil Engineer, Tom Porter to Office Assistant (T), John Perotta to Office Technician, Jo Harmon to Office Technician, Coast Cascade HQ; Carmel Flores, Bret Talbot, Jacqueline Means, Ray Taglio, Charles Rhodes, Chris Ladouceur, Jason Martin and Anthony Martinez, to Fire Apparatus Engineer, John Russell, Ricardo Rodriguez, Michael Tiller and Nate Glaeser to Fire Fighter II, Joe Warren to Fire Captain, Sonoma-Lake-Napa; Marnie Quigley to Fire Prevention Specialist I, Leanne Farmer, Jeffrey Kinsey, Teri Callison and Stephen Richardson to Fire Apparatus Engineer, Siskiyou Ranger Unit; Cyndi Wilson to Office Assistant, Lydia Soileau and Matthew Davis to Fire Apparatus Engineer, Tim Person to Dispatcher Clerk, Butte Ranger Unit; Paul Avila, Sean Kavanaugh and David Munro to Fire Apparatus Engineers, Tehama-Glen Ranger Unit.

PROMOTIONS: Susan Albrecht to Personnel Services Specialist I (OSFM), Christy Owen and Karen Hickey to Management Services Technician, Seria Marshal to Program Technician I, Nancy Minnich, Marilyn Collins, Helen Farrell and Karen Hickey to Program Technician II, Coast Cascade HQ; Sandra Gilpatrick and Pete Munoa to Fire Captain, Deanna Baxman to Battalion Chief, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Ranger Unit; Daniel Dorsey to Fire Captain (B); EEL River Conservation Camp; Mark Mancini to Fire Apparatus Engineer, Janet Marshall to Fire Prevention Specialist II (LT), Judith McLead to Office Technician, Fred Orsborn to Fire Apparatus Engineer, Butte

Ranger Unit; Michael Weaver, John Wilson and Christine Thompson to Fire Captain, Tehama-Glen Ranger Unit; Marianne Benavidez to Office Technician; Randal Wyckoff and Richard Fuqua to Fire Captain, Mendocino Ranger Unit; Ingrid Icasiano to Deputy State Fire Marshall III, (OSFM) San Leandro.

TRANSFERS: Magnus Jonsson to Ishi Conservation Camp from Valley View Conservation Camp; Scott Rosen to Valley View Conservation Camp from Ventura Youth Conservation Camp; Fire Captain Rob Daugherty to Sonoma-Lake-Napa Ranger Unit from San Diego Ranger Unit; Division Chief Dana Cole to Sonoma-Lake-Napa Ranger Unit from Coast Cascade HQ; Fire Captain (B) Paul Franklin to Konocti Conservation Camp from Humboldt-Del Norte Ranger Unit; Fire Captain Mark Tolbert to Mendocino Ranger Unit from Sonoma-Lake-Napa Ranger Unit; Program Technician II Judith Riedle to Mendocino Ranger Unit from Coast Cascade HQ; Deputy State Fire Marshal Joe Campbell to Humboldt-Del Norte Ranger Unit from Coast Cascade HQ.

SEPARATIONS: Fire Apparatus Engineer Robert Beals, Forester I Joel Segers, Forester I George McCaskill, Office Assistant (T) Susan Spehling and Fire Captain Christopher Paulus, Siskiyou Ranger Unit; Water and Sewage Plant Operator Dale Cates and Fire Apparatus Engineer Craig Lockett, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Ranger Unit; Office Assistant Tamara Alford, Tehama-Glen Ranger Unit; Deputy State Fire Marshal Rocque Yballa, (OSFM) Code Enforcement.

RETIREMENTS: Division Chief Dennis Murchland, Ishi Conserva-

tion Camp; Division Chief Frederick Imhoff, Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp; Office Technician Julie Mallet, Butte Ranger Unit.

DEATHS: Retired Forester II Henry "Hank" Land from Mendocino Ranger Unit passed away on October 5, 1999; Retired Chief Larry Kirton from Tehama-Glen Ranger Unit passed away on December 12, 1999; Battalion Chief Rick Patterson from Mendocino Ranger Unit passed away on July 10, 1999; Retired Regional Administrative Officer Lois Robinson from old Region II passed away on June 16, 1999; Retired Fire Captain John Monday from Sonoma-Lake-Napa Ranger Unit passed away on June 2, 1999; Battalion Chief George Teague from Siskiyou Ranger Unit passed away on May 12, 1999; Forest Manager Roy Ritchie from Latour Demonstration State Forest, Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit passed away on June 25, 1999.

SACRAMENTO

APPOINTMENTS: Maggie Frost to Office Technician (T); Luanne Heuer to Associate Government Program Analyst; Larry Crabtree to Labor Relations Officer; Lorraine Martinez to Office Technician; Willaume Kelley IV to Secretary, Management Services; Alisha Herring to Secretary and Morna Morrison to Office Assistant, Public Affairs; Bob Yancey to Warehouse Worker, Eric Joe to Business Services Assistant, John Lenon to Stock Clerk and Michael Aguilio to Business Services Operator I (Supervisor), Business Services; Lewis Malotte to Heavy Equipment

*See **PERSONNEL**, page 47*

PERSONNEL: from page 46

Mechanic, Mobile Equipment; Robbie Schemenaur to Account Clerk II and Edna Lau to Accounting Technician, Accounting; Joan Jennings to Staff Services Manager II, Occupations Safety and Health Program; Ree McLaughlin to Staff Services Manager I, Academy; Debra Bohall to Office Technician, Academy.

PROMOTIONS: John Craney to Assistant Chief, Operations Support, Fire Protection; Mary Gaebe to Personnel Services Specialist II; Judith Montgomery to Personnel Services Specialist I; Katherine Morris to Secretary; Mary Frith to Staff Services Manager I, Judy Kohn to Associate Government Program Analyst, Betty Brewer to Business Services Officer I, Allen Hanson to Business Services Analyst, Yvonne Butcher to Business Services Officer III, Donna Westall to Staff Services Analyst, Business Services; Stephanie Marron to Staff Services Analyst, Legislation; Reese Kocher to Supervising Cook II, Academy,

Reene Powers to Management Services Technician, Fire Engineering-LRA, Jeannie Smith to Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering-SRA, Rich Curatolo to Office Technician, Training Division, Lisa Dowdy to Management Services Technician, Fire Engineering-LRA, (OSFM).

TRANSFERS: Staff Services Analyst Candace Kraemer to Fiscal and Administrative Coordination Section Resource Management from Fire Protection; Staff Services Analyst Jolene DeGroot to (OSFM) from Legislation; Staff Services Analyst Jana Risley to Personnel from Budget Office; Business Services Analyst Bea Walls to Business Services from Management Services; Office Technician Kathy Battles to (OSFM); Battalion Chief William Todd to Academy from (OSFM); Associate Government Program Analyst Kim Archuleta to Information Technology from (OSFM).

SEPARATIONS: Research Program Specialist I Janine Stenback, Fire and Resource

Assessment Program; Associate Government Program Analyst Michelle Meier and Andrea Traverso, Occupational Safety and Health Program; Office Technician Sharon Tang, Labor Relations; Accountant I Michael Miller, Accounting; Business Services Officer I Dolores Jones, Business Services; Office Technician CeAnn Malkow (OSFM), Fire Engineering; Business Services Assistant Vince Perez, Business Services; Chief Craig Anthony, Training & Education (OSFM).

RETIREMENTS: Business Services Assistant Gwendolyn Lemons, Business Services; Division Chief Jeff Dragila, (OSFM) Capitol Area Services.

DEATHS: Personnel Services Specialist Berta Bejarano from Human Resources passed away on April 25, 1999; Staff Services Analyst Sherri Cornelison from Human Resources passed away on December 11, 1999.

All appointments, promotions, transfers and separations included in this section are submitted by your field personnel offices. If you do not see your name please contact your unit personnel office.

Computer tip

No matter what Windows application you have running, sometimes you need to use the find command for another document, folder, program, etc. You can run Find by pressing the Windows key, then the F key, which will cause the Find function to pop up to enable you to find what you are looking for.

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
&
NEW
MILLENNIUM!!!!**



JANUARY 2000

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
Public Affairs Office
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Sacramento, CA 94244-2460



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Smooth sailing into Y2K

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of all of its employees, the transition to the next millennium was smooth and trouble-free for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). CDF's computer systems worked flawlessly and emergency operations continued uninterrupted as the New Year began. CDF continued to provide Californians across the state with the high level of emergency response for which the department is known.

Congratulations to all at CDF who worked so hard, for so long, to prepare the department for the seamless changeover. I'd like to extend special recognition to the CDF Information Technology Services staff who have dedicated the past two years preparing for this event, and continued their outstanding work throughout the night on New Year's Eve and through the weekend.

I also extend my gratitude to all of the CDF staff who developed and carried out the emergency response plans. The coordination was thorough, professional and ultimately a great success. CDF was well prepared and responded quickly to requests for emergency assistance. Also a special thanks to the folks in the Emergency Command Centers in Sacramento, Riverside and Redding and the many other CDF staff across the state who sacrificed their personal plans for the holiday to help keep California's 34 million residents safe.

I've also received a message from the Governor, extending his thanks and congratulations to all of you, and commenting on how well everyone performed even in the face of extraordinary resource challenges.

As the director of this department, I'm extremely proud of the job you've done and commend you for your outstanding and successful contributions. The monumental efforts really paid off!

Andrea E. Tuttle

DIRECTOR
CDF

COMMUNIQUE'

Gray Davis
*Governor
State of California*

Mary D. Nichols
*Resources Secretary
The Resources Agency*

Andrea E. Tuttle
*Director
Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection*

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